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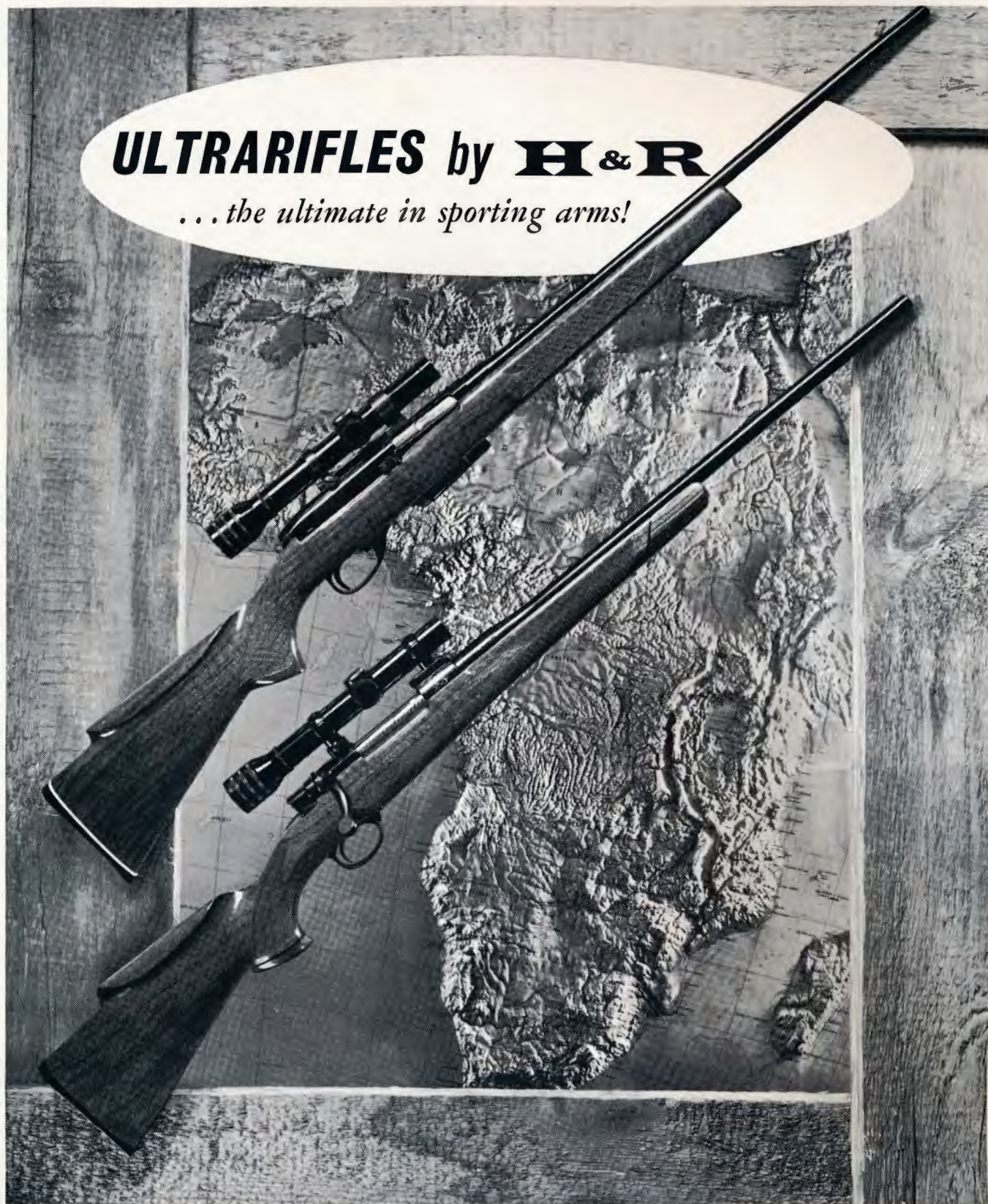
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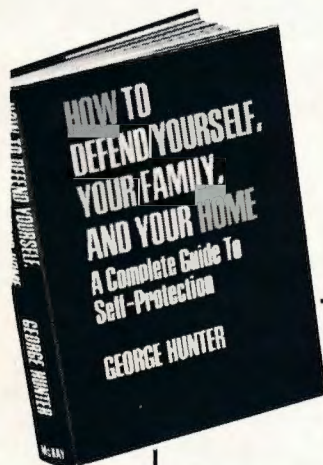
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# TRIGGER TALK

## FREE GUN CONTEST

**B**ECAUSE of the new federal laws, a few winners of the free gun drawings in the January issue of GUNS and the 1969 GUNS Annual have had some delay in getting word to us on where the guns are to be shipped. As soon as this problem is corrected, we will announce all of the winners in this column.

Credit where credit is due—even if a bit late. The photo of the Borchardt pistol on the cover of our February issue was credited to Mr. J. B. Wood. His phone call, stating that it was not his photo, caused much embarrassment. The rightful recipient of the credit—and the check—is Mr. James B. Stewart. Sorry about that!

Readers of GUNS Magazine will be saddened to read the following from Bob Mandel, our Antique Arms Editor:

On January 1, 1969, noted firearms authority Harry H. Mann of Las Vegas, Nevada, died of a heart attack. An NRA life member and referee, Harry became nationally prominent for his development of the Hotel Sahara Antique Gun Show in Las Vegas. Through his vast knowledge of antique firearms and his organizing skill, the Sahara show became known as the prestige show of the nation. He will be missed by all who collect and enjoy firearms. The annual Mid-Winter Gun Show at the Sahara Hotel was held, as scheduled, on January 30, 1969, in tribute to this great sportsman and arms expert.

It Can be done!

The legislature of Oklahoma, in their first regular session of 1969, adopted a resolution which says, in part: "That the House of Representatives of the First Session of the Thirty-second Oklahoma Legislature hereby expresses its hope that the Congress of the United States will not enact any regulatory legislation regarding guns or firearms." Hip Hip Hooray!

### THE COVER

The "Valiant Vis" whose story is covered in this issue. This photo, of the author's personal Radom (oops, I mean Vis), shows his inclination toward nickel-plated guns. Photo and article by Gene Lovitz of Chicago.

April, 1969

Vol. XV, No. 9-4

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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*News from the...*

# SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to the Constitutional Right of Every Citizen to Keep and Bear Arms*

During the past several months state and federal legislative bodies have gone overboard in proposing foolish and unnecessarily restrictive gun legislation. Sportsmen who must defend themselves against anti-gun laws often say these bills would never be introduced in the first place if their elected representatives knew a little more about guns, hunting and shooting.

Now with a new administration recently installed it is possible for pro-gun interests to get a fresh start in regards to protecting their constitutional rights. To influence the greatest number of possible votes while not alienating certain individuals is a tremendous challenge. The S.C.A. continues to throw its support behind friendly laws and legislators and to fiercely oppose unnecessarily restrictive legislation that has as its target the interests of legitimate sportsmen. The S.C.A. functions most effectively with a large membership. During the past year, as more foolish legislation has been proposed, the S.C.A. has seen its membership increase. But even this steady growth is not enough to counteract the aims of self-righteous legislators. We need help—YOUR HELP—to make certain Congress is made aware of your sentiments.

To vote intelligently on any bill, legislators need a wide variety of facts, statistics and informed opinions. The staffs of legislators are frequently overworked and therefore rely on letters and other information from constituents to help them decide the merits of a particular bill. Legislators are often open-minded on a particular piece of legislation and your opinions can help to form their vote—for or against.

When it comes to legislation affecting hunting and shooting, no one is better qualified than the sportsman to help his lawmakers. But unfortunately, not enough sportsmen work with their legislators for the enactment of beneficial gun legislation. This is not primarily your fault, for the average hunter and shooter knows little about the legislative process.

This then is the primary function of the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA, to acquaint you with the best means of reaching and influencing your legislators on firearms legislation. The first line of defense of your constitutional rights to keep and bear arms is an efficient manner to convey your feelings about anti-gun legislation to the general public and your lawmakers. The S.C.A.'s continuing information and legislative newsletter service provides you with the latest information you need about firearms and the best methods to employ to enact the laws you feel are good and defeat those you feel to be unjust.

The SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA supplies you with accurate facts and information to use in writing to your legislators. And through our nation-wide public relations service, we influence many legislators. This powerful combination of services have circumvented many dangerous laws in the past—but to continue we need your help.

Don't betray your self-interests. Don't disappoint your millions of fellow shooting sportsmen. The SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is your last gasp defense against ever-increasing restrictions of your right to keep and bear firearms. We need your help and we need it now. Don't wait another day. Join the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA today! Your constitutional rights hang in the balance.

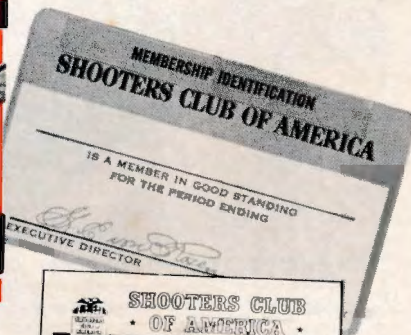
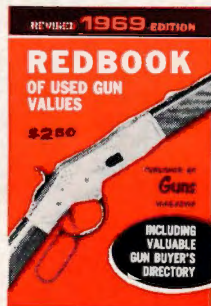
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## The Guns Magazine



Nonte  
Handloading



Braverman  
Modern Arms



Mandel  
Antique Arms



Schumaker  
Gunsmithing

# Panel of Experts

### What Is It?

I have a single shot rifle that closely resembles a Mannlicher but has no markings on the receiver or barrel. It has an octagon barrel, Mannlicher stock with cheek piece, spoon-shaped bolt handle, double set triggers, folding leaf rear sights, and measures 6.5mm at the muzzle. Can you tell me anything about it and what kind of ammo it takes?

David E. Foster  
Anderson, S.C.

Your gun fits the description of a pre-World War II custom built target rifle that has been altered for stalking. I suggest you bring it to a qualified gunsmith for physical examination, and have him make a chamber cast to determine the exact caliber. It seems that even Europe has had their wild-catters.—S.B.

### FN Versus German G-43

A friend and I are interested in an inexpensive semi and are thinking of an FN or G-43. Can you supply us with any information on the G-43? What problems would we have to changing to the 7.62 Nato round with this rifle? Is one better made than the other? Can extra clips be bought and at what prices?

Bert Heyne  
Elko, Nevada

For general sporting use I consider the FN M1949 rifle far more desirable than the German G-43. Far better workmanship is found in the FN, and it resembles a conventional sporting rifle much more, consequently, handles much better. Either can be converted to 7.62mm (.308 Winchester) caliber with equal ease, except for the fact that G-43 utilizes a shrink-fit of receiver on barrel which complicates removal and replacement. For your purposes, I would recommend the FN over the G-43. Spare magazines can sometimes be obtained from the firms importing the rifles.—G.N.

### Collector's Navy Colt

I have a Navy Colt and would like to know its value. It is a cap and ball with octagon barrel and brass butt-plate. The barrel is inscribed: SAM COLT NEW YORK CITY. All parts are stamped with the No. 50801. The cylinder is engraved with ships and the words: ENGAGED 10 MAY 1843. The butt-plate has the inscription: M.C. MCCARTHY CO. B MICH. 3rd REGT.

Carl Russell  
Taberg, New York

### Reloading the 7.92mm. Mauser

Could you tell me the best way to reload 7.92 mm Mauser cartridges to bring the fps up to 3500, to produce the minimum wear in the bore? What powder loading and bullet do you recommend?

Kenneth R. Hill  
Lincoln City, Oregon

With the inscription on its butt, your Navy Colt should have a collectors value of between \$125 to \$250, more if the condition is very fine or better. You should write to the National Archives in Washington to find out about M.C. McCarthy. For a small sum of about two or three dollars they will send you a photostat of his service record . . . this should enhance the value.—R.M.

It simply isn't possible to develop 3500 fps with any available bullet at safe pressure in the 8x57 mm cartridge. The lightest bullet around is the Speer 125 gr. Spire Point which may be driven at about 3100 fps by 49 to 51 grains of IMR 3031 powder. Some rifles will accept as much as 52 grains, producing just under 3100 fps at pressures averaging just under 50,000 psi.—G.N.



### Liggetts Percussion Revolver?

I am puzzled by a .44 cal. single action cap and ball revolver I have. It looks like a Remington, but with some minor differences. There are no



markings anywhere except for a Liggetts patent and date (Patent 17 June 8, 1855) on the frame under the grips, and the initials V.P. on the frame near the trigger guard. Is it a rare piece or what?

C.E. Kornhoff  
Wood Ridge, N.J.

It doesn't happen often but I'm stumped. Your Liggetts revolver has thrown me for a loss for I have never in my 20 years in the antique arms business run into any name such as this. Wish I could see the gun itself to be able to come up with an honest answer to just what you have. If the condition is excellent as stated, chances are it could be a rare item. But without really seeing what we're talking about I hesitate to give you any answer at all.—R.M.

### Hotloading .38's and .30-06 Gallery Loads

Could you recommend a maximum load using .38 Special cases in a .357 revolver for target use? I would like to achieve maximum stopping power in these cases with factory-type 158 gr. bullets without the possibility of case failure. And, what is a .30-06 rifle load I can use indoors with a cast lead bullet?

Stephen F. Simora  
St. Louis, Missouri

The simplest solution to your .357 Magnum loading problem is to use .357 Magnum loading data in the .38 Special cases BUT seat the bullets out to the same overall length as the .357 cartridge. This will allow the same loading density and powder space in the .38 Spl. case as in the .357. A good .30-06 gallery load consists of Lyman bullet #311467 (gas check) and 15.0 to 20.0 grains of 4227 powder. The lighter bullet #311466 may also be used with the same charges. You'll have to play around considerably with charge weight to get best accuracy.—G.N.

### Marlin Model 42 Shotgun

I have been subscribing to your fine magazine for over two years now, and always enjoy it cover to cover. I have a Marlin No. 42 12 gauge shotgun that I would like to know the general safe shooting verdict on, and its value. It is serial number 648, with "Pat. USA MAR 24, May 19, 1909 & Patents Pending." Does it have 2¾" chambers and take modern shells?

Burt Boers  
Downers Grove, Illinois

Your Marlin Model 42 shotgun was announced in 1920 as basically a 12 gauge version of their Model 30 and discontinued in 1934. Long chains of company ownership and management have made it difficult to unearth complete details of all models. The Chamber is undoubtedly 2¾". I'm sure the barrels were made of fluid steel, and like the older Winchesters, are all safe with modern ammunition. However, it wouldn't hurt to have a gunsmith check it out. Unless you can catch a collector who needs a Model 42, its general value is probably \$25 to \$40.—W.S.

### Gunsmithing From A to Z

I am interested in obtaining a book on gunsmithing, one that illustrates as well as describes the recommended procedures for repair and adjustments for revolvers and automatic pistols. Is there one such book available?

Ed C. Gajarian  
Fresno, Calif.

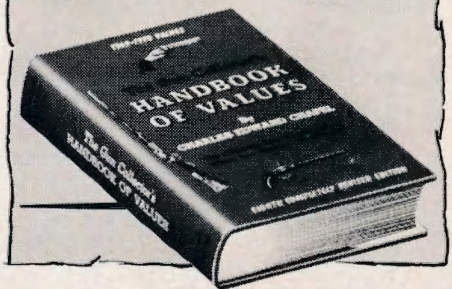
I wish there were ONE book, well illustrated, that could cover all gunsmithing, and all possible breakages and malfunctions. Unfortunately it would have to be a production so voluminous as to practically defy gunsmiths and hobbyists from purchasing it. You'll probably have to go the route of the rest of us. I have Howe's, Dunlap's, Brownell's Encyclopedia, many factory take-down-assembly manuals, and MacFarland's Introduction to Modern Gunsmithing. You are never completely covered. Something new crops up continuously, or some combination of mechanical oddities presents a situation which many of us have never encountered before—and therefore is in no book. Frank Brownell is now editing another book, which will apparently include some of my own discoveries and methods. So, take your pick, get as many as you can and good luck.—W.S.

(Continued on page 16)

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# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

## WHAT THE KENNEDY ELECTION MEANS

Most observers here in Washington figure the last general elections turned out pretty good for the sportsman. Anti-gunners in the Senate, such as Daniel Brewster of Maryland, Mike Moroney of Oklahoma, and Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania, lost.

However, more recent developments by the Senate Democrats overshadow these victories. The election of Sen. Edward Kennedy by the Senate Democrats as second in command alone off-sets the general election results. The nations shooting sportsmen will recall he was one of the leaders in the infamous anti-gun legislation of last year.

That was last Congress. This Congress, crime is still the big issue. The new President, a Republican, opposed firearm legislation during the election. But he will have to work with Democratic leaders; democrats like the new whip, Sen. Kennedy.

Sen. Russell Long, the dethroned whip, opposed gun legislation. The Kennedy victory makes every holder of a key position in the Senate and House of Congress an anti-gunner. With such force, the sportsman can be legislated against with an amendment here and an amendment there attached to even unrelated legislation. The President can only sign legislation into law on an all or nothing basis.

On the other side of the Senate, the Republicans rejected the shooting sportsman's friend, Senator Roman Hruska of Nebraska, for the position of party whip. He was out-voted for the more liberal Hugh Scott of Penn.

The Scott-Kennedy elections to whip positions of their respective parties is seen here in Washington as the forming of a so-called "liberal majority" in the Senate. The Kennedy victory also makes him a candidate for President in

1972, as this is the first official indication that he has ambitions of being more than a senator. This fact has even greater significance than his post as majority party whip.

The boys downtown, the bureaucrats who make the Presidents Administration work, are aware of this. The bureaucrats are the same ones who dreamed up the existing law. Already they have built themselves something of a gun control kingdom. As it grows, so will their careers advance.

Now, we, as shooting sportsmen, have to face clearly the possibility of national gun registration. By that, it is meant that every gun owner be required to list each of his firearms with the federal government here in Washington. There will be other little requirements attached to such a plan. The application to register firearms, and that's all that it will be, an "application", will require such things as photos and fingerprints. (More on this next month as official versions of the legislation become available.)

The only home for the shooting sportsman seems to be a strategy of fighting fire with fire. It is with that kind of effort in mind that major companies of the shooting fraternity have suggested states enact licensing systems for gun ownership.

The difference is a simple but crucial one, however, for the sportsman. Under the firearm fraternity plan, a license holder could own as many firearms as he chooses. The guns would not be registered. Holders of licenses would also be able to ship and receive firearms in interstate commerce. Brought down to the hunting and shooting level, the difference would be even more acute. Under the firearm fraternity plan, the license holder could borrow a gun. Under the proposed registration plan he could not.





# CROSSFIRE

## Reader Clears Up Mystery

With reference to a letter by Mr. Dan Palace, Morrisville, Pa. in the January GUNS, regarding the "hole" in the hammer of automatic pistols, may I give the following information.

I enlisted in the 2nd Cavalry in 1934. During the recruit training period, both mounted and dismounted, a rapid fire course was simulated. This was done by tying a strong cord about three feet long to the hammer of the .45 cal. Colt ACP, and holding the loose end in the left hand. The object was to dry-fire the first shot, elevate the arm as if it had recoiled, and thrust forward to the aim and fire position, holding the attached cord to recock the gun for the second dry shot, etc. This rig, with an instructor for timing and counting, was an aid to the time when we would have to go to the range and were required to meet the standards for military records in marksmanship.

It seems logical that the "hole" may have been intended for the same type of training without manually recocking the gun for each dry-fired training shot. Try it, it works!

Bert R. Sauers  
Lt. Col. (USAF) Ret.  
Sacramento, California

## Wishes Arms Ban Be Lifted

I congratulate you and your staff on the quality of "Guns" Magazine. I eagerly look forward to reading it every month.

There are many of your American guns and accessories as discussed and advertised in your magazine that I and others in South Africa would like to purchase, but, as you know, the boycott on arms still stands. By the way—congratulations to the Republicans on Mr. Nixon's nomination; I hope he does something about said law. It's an absolute puzzle to us how

many Americans do not realize the strategic position of South Africa as concerns your own defense, and make things difficult with arms boycotts etc. We are in the very greater majority pro-Western, pro-capitalist, and anti-communist.

I nearly climbed on a soap-box then! But anyhow, ours is a nation of many who love hunting, and with a past history remarkably similar to yours.

Dr. Edmund Jonker  
Hertzogville, S. Africa

## Criticism and Praise

I would like to commend you on your fine magazine. I believe that your GUNS ANNUAL is one of the best of the annuals.

Just one point of criticism. The coupon that we clip and mail each month, hoping that ours will be drawn for the gun of the month, is always on the reverse side of a printed page.

Enclosed please find the coupon from my current issue and a reasonable facsimile of the one in Guns Annual. Keep up the good and enjoyable work.

W. M. Fowler  
Bartlesville, Okla.

*You don't have to use the coupon—the information on a post card will do.—Editor*

## And For Dessert I'll Have...

Along with the American Rifleman your magazine is like rounding off a meal with a "superb dessert." I have solved the problem of indecision by subscribing to both.

I joined the NRA because of its fighting ability toward those anti-gun crackpots who apparently don't know the difference between gunpowder and water pollution.

Stanley R. Fallett

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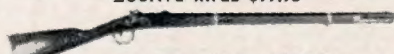
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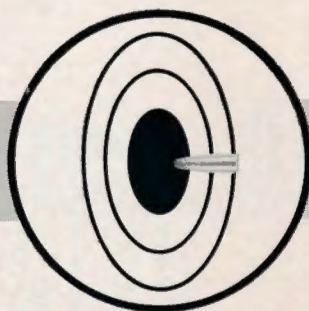
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# POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE RANCH HANDS had driven a herd of two-year old steers from near Eagle Nest in New Mexico to Springer and there turned the beef into holding pens. On their return to the ranch two of the riders had tied their horses behind the chuck wagon and were up on the seat with the cook. They were in Cimarron Canyon above the town by that name. A nice buck pranced out beside the narrow road and stood to watch them pass. One of the cowpokes pulled out a little nickel-plated .22 revolver, a peewee with a four-inch barrel and fixed sights. He took a quick snapshot at the buck and on the sound of the shot the deer fell dead. Shot in the neck at 65 yards.

Camped on a fire lookout on the Flathead National forest in Montana, a black bear came into camp early

one morning. He nosed around the cook tent, examined the garbage pit and turned over a stack of packsaddles. The assistant ranger had a .22 Stevens single shot pistol with a seven-inch barrel. He aimed to hit the bruin behind the ear. The 40-gr. slug struck farther back and paralyzed the bear. A second shot in the head finished him off. The distance was 20 yards.

Riding across the Vaqueros Ranger district, I came upon a Mexican who ran a few cattle on the forest. He had a small dog with him of very doubtful ancestry. A tiny kyoodle that did not weigh more than 25 pounds. On the back of his saddle was the freshly skinned hide of a sizeable mountain lion. The dog had hit the fresh lion track and had set off after the cat with a clamor that would have done credit to a pack of Plott hounds. He had ran the feline hardly a quarter before it treed. Tiburcio galloped along behind hoping to get a fleeting glimpse of the lion. He was taken aback when he loped up to his valiant little canine and saw he was sitting under a low pinon tree, the cat spitting at him from only ten feet above. The Mexican had a .22 Colt Woodsman and three old cartridges. He got down off his horse, held the pistol in both hands, and shot the lion through the ear. It fell out of the low pine—stone dead.

Once hunting in the Copper River country of Alaska, over near the Yukon border, I knew an Indian gal named Lena. She was a trapper, a widow, and the sole support of quite a passel of kids. Some of these were her own by several passing braves, others were younger brothers and sisters. Besides this brood Lena had a team of sled dogs and these had to be fed. She shot a moose every week. I asked her what she used, and she told me. "Sometime, .30-.30. More often .22 long rifle, it no cost so much". She would stalk the moose until she was within forty yards and then plaster several of the 40-gr. slugs through the ribs before the startled critter could get under way.

Lena would then let the moose run

(Continued on next page)



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until its lungs commenced to fill up with blood. She would come along behind, tracking slowly. It might take 24 hours to finish off the game but die it would and from nothing more lethal than the pipsqueak twenty-two.

Alaska fishermen working the broken coastline that is Kodiak Island used to habitually carry a .22 rifle in the dory with them. When they saw one of the great brown bears they pumped him full of the .22 slugs. The bears are great eaters of salmon and the fishermen considered the giant bruin as in competition with them. A bear with a bellyfull of .22 bullets might take a week to die but the lead would finally be the end of him. Today brown bears are under a quota on Kodiak. One of the reasons has been this long established tradition of the fishermen for belly-shooting the great beasts whenever they get into range.

In these days of magnum cartridges and an intensive search for more power in our cartridges it is refreshing to contemplate that every big game animal on this continent has been laid low with the twenty-two.

Smith & Wesson developed the .22 Short in this country. It came along in 1858 and was fired in an S&W revolver. Union officers during the Civil War were sometimes armed with this

handgun and they thought they were pretty well outfitted. The .22 cartridge today is little changed from the original.

The twenty-two is made in Short, Long and Long Rifle, both standard speed and high velocity. There are lesser loadings, the .22 BB cap and the .22 CB cap. There are also some ultra-powerful loadings, the only modern one being the .22 rimfire Magnum. It uses a 40-grain bullet and has a muzzle velocity of 2000 fps. There are two old timers, the .22 Winchester Automatic and the .22 Remington Special. Both fire 45-gr. bullets. The .22 Short uses a 29-gr. bullet and also a 27-gr., the latter is a hollow-point. The .22 Long fires the same bullets. The .22 Long Rifle uses a 40-gr. and a .36-gr., the latter a hollow-point. There is a .22 Short with a frangible 15-grain bullet. It is meant for gallery shooting and breaks up on contact with the backstop. It has the highest velocity of any of the twenty-two loadings except the .22 Rimfire Magnum, it goes 1710 fps MV. If a fellow had to make do with only one rifle and one cartridge from now on the .22 long rifle would be the hands-down choice. It has more utility, more versatility than all the others!

The ammo companies used to quote  
(Continued on page 14)

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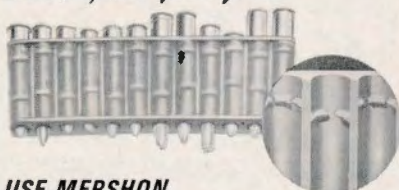
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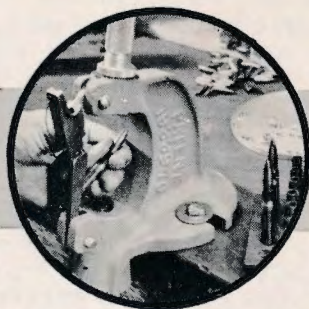
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## HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

**S**OME TIME BACK, we commented on the introduction of Speer's new 125-gr. cannellured, soft-point bullet for the .38 Special and .357 Magnum (which also works well in the .38 Colt Super Auto). Well, the bullets are now available in quantity and, best of all, we just obtained lab-tested loading data from Dave Andrews, the genial Speer ballistician. Try these loads for size:

**.38 Special**

8.0 grs. Unique-CCI 500 primer—1150 fps

8.0 grs. AL-7-CCI 500 primer—1079 fps

15.0 grs. 2400-CCI 550 primer—1212 fps

Above velocities obtained in a S&W K-38 with 6" barrel.

Based on the above, we'd estimate 9 grains of Unique should produce well over 1400 fps in .357 Magnum caliber and 16-17 grains 2400 should develop over 1500 fps. At those velocities, the bullet will expand well. In .38 Super, try 8.0 grs. Unique for well over 1300 fps. This is a hot load, so try 7.0 or 7.5 grs. first, then go up as good, common-sense, loading practice dictates. Speer is also now delivering its 158-grain lubricated lead semi-wadcutter .357" bullet for moderate-velocity loads.

While on the subject of components, it's well worth reporting that the 90-grain JHP (jacketed, hollow-point) 9mm bullet now offered by Super Vel is slightly changed from the design originally reported. No lead at all is now exposed at the nose. The thin jacket is turned over the mouth of the cavity ever so slightly. This eliminates any possibility of lead "digging in" or "grabbing" on the roughly-machined feed ramps and bullet guides found on some military pistols. Maximum reliability of functioning is insured. A nice, moderate 9mm Luger load (not as fast as the factory Super Vel) consists of this bullet and 6.0 grains of Unique. It also works beautifully in .38 Colt Super Auto with 7.5 or 8.0 grs. of Unique. Expansion is

spectacular in clay or wet newspapers with the latter load and also with the factory S-V 9mm Luger load.

Now is the time—if you haven't already—to get chummy with your local dealers. All those odd-ball components you've been ordering by mail from outside your home state will now *have* to come through an in-state dealer. Remember that the average dealer can't possibly stock *all* components, like, say, Barnes .410", 300-gr. bullets you might need for your .405 Winchester — or .216 Berdan primers for that European brass you've been hoarding. From now on, you'll have to special-order such items through your dealer. Unless he's an unusually accommodating fellow, he won't be overly interested in processing a special order for 100 bullets or 1000 primers. He can't afford to be because the time and paperwork required will cost him *more* than the already-slim profit margin. So if you buy off-the-wall items like those just mentioned, don't get upset if dealers bill you for a service charge, or lay down a minimum order value. I know several who have already done this, including one who now refuses to make any ammunition sale, even of stock items, of less than \$5.00. Don't blame the dealer—he has to make a reasonable profit—blame your elected representative in Congress who perpetrated this upon our millions of shooters.

A few days ago (late December), we went down and spent the day at the range of the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield. The range is a fine one and the marksmanship training given our troopers is most excellent. Until relatively recently, the revolver was the Illinois standard sidearm—but it is now the Smith & Wesson M39 double-action auto in 9mm Parabellum (Luger) caliber. This change, of course, necessitated modifications of the training program and the courses of fire. Quite frankly, we couldn't be more pleased with the



gun selection since we've long considered the M39 superior to the old wheelgun for modern law enforcement use. Anyone who's ever tried to reload a revolver in a hurry in a cold, rainy, dark alley while someone was shooting at him will agree, I'm sure. And, that old wives' tale about autos jamming is just so much hogwash these days. I'll match a modern auto with a revolver for serious social intercourse any day.

Illinois plans to reload 9mm ammunition for training purposes. That in itself isn't news, for hundreds of law enforcement agencies have rolled their own practice ammo for years. What is interesting is the fact that the reloads will be full-charge (duplicating the service load) and will utilize the same jacketed *expanding* bullet as factory-loaded ammunition purchased for service use. All the departments I know of reload only reduced, lead-bullet loads for training. My personal experience indicates that while light loads are fine to start training, the man who uses a handgun in defense of his own (and other people's) life should practice regularly with the same ammunition he'll be using that moment of truth when the chips are down and the Pearly Gates beckon. We commend the Illinois State Police on their intelligent use of reloaded ammunition (many hundreds of thousands of rounds per year) to make our troopers better shots and, therefore, better officers.

**T**his time of year, we start receiving complaints from fellows who are having (or had during hunting season) trouble with their shotshell handloads. It seems that all last summer their skeet and trap loads clattered flawlessly through pumps and autos alike. But, come Fall, and the few boxes of heavy field loads they assembled didn't do so well. We've found several common faults in some such ammunition examined. First, it seems that an assortment of hulls is often used since, unlike at skeet, empties are seldom recovered while hunting. High-brass, low-base cases are scrounged from all over; have been fired in several different guns, are of several makes; and vary greatly in condition. Second, few handloaders seem willing to buy the proper wads needed for good field loads. Probably because they have target wads (one-piece plastic) on hand, they try to use them. Third, they are reluctant to re-adjust the loading tool which worked so well with target loads. Lastly, there seems to be an obsessive urge to use exces-

sive crimping pressure which results in crumpled, wrinkled, and bulged shells. Funny, but people who put a perfect crimp on skeet loads will slam the tool handle down on a hunting shell as if they meant to squash it flat.

None of these problems need occur. Take cases, for instance. If you don't have a good supply of once-fired hulls of *one make*, simply buy a hundred or so new ones. You'll be far better off in the end. Shot-to-shot results will be much more uniform and loading will be much less trouble.

Trying to "get by" with target wads simply because you have them and don't want to buy a full thousand for hunting when you'll only use a couple hundred is just asking for trouble. To make them work, you'll have to partially collapse the wad column by excessive pressure in crimping. That alters powder burning, crumples and bulges cases, produces a poor crimp, and often results in wad springiness forcing the crimp partially open during storage.

**D**on't try to avoid tool adjustment simply because it took you an hour or so last year to get it perking just right with target loads. If your de-capping stem is intended to reseal base wads and was adjusted for high-base cases, it won't touch the wad in a field load case—so take a moment and get it right before assembling that first duck load. You'll be using different powders and wad seating pressure may change. Don't say, "This is good enough for only a few boxes." Get the seating pressure set right. Same goes for the crimping die.



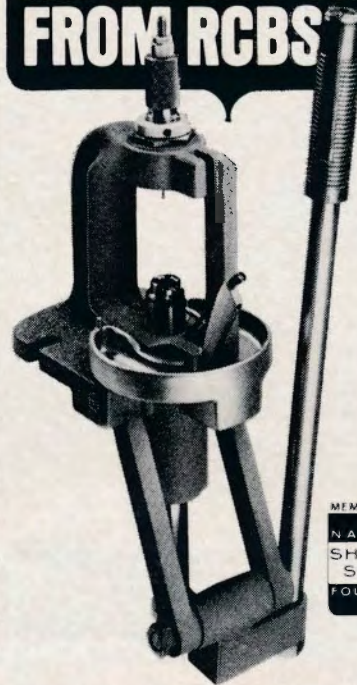
Chances are that as set for skeet and trap loads in your favorite case, it needs a bit of change to produce perfect crimps on your pet field load. Make that change and you won't have bulged cases and sloppy crimps. Extra pressure won't make up for improper adjustment.

In short, take the time to do things right, and start with the right components, and your hunting loads will be every bit as good as those you brew up for use on claybirds.

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penetration in 7/8" soft pine boards as a part of the ballistics of the cartridge. Some of the charts indicated the penetration with soft-point and with full metal patch bullets. Frequently, these days, the writer on handgun cartridges will show what his pet load does in pine slabbing, water-filled cans, boiler plate or moulding clay. These figures don't prove much. This is the reason undoubtedly that the ammunition manufacturers have given up quoting this sort of data.

Penetration baffles are made with the 7/8" planking located one inch apart. Lead bullets, and those with soft-point exposed, commence to expand on the first board and the more planks that are struck the greater the mushrooming effect. The full jacketed ball always looks the better in this sort of a test. As a conclusion, the lead bullet or the soft-point may actually kill game a lot better. Firing into boiler plate is another thing. The slug with the toughest and thickest jacketing will always come out smelling like a rose, other things being relatively equal. Again this may give quite a phony reading. The bullet with a hollow point or soft-point will splash on the plating and not bust on through. But it will do more damage on the game animal.

Shooting into cans of water is a stunt. This looks spectacular when caught by the camera but it proves relatively little. The high velocity expanding bullet always gets the nod here. The same is true in such brittle items as blocks of ice. The spray of ice particles can be captured on celluloid and then it looks pretty spectacular in print. But it proves only that ice literally explodes if you hit it with a fast traveling slug.

Shots fired into modeler's clay have more authenticity than any of the usual circus mediums. The clay needs to be in a five pound lump and it is better to confine it in a pasteboard box. It offers more resistance than animal flesh but it is a substance that can be kneaded into the same relative consistency for each shot. After firing, the block can be sliced open and the bullet channel can then be studied. The ammo companies sometimes use clay but more often fire into a specially prepared gelatin. This mix is supposed to offer about the same medium as that of a game critter. The gelatin is sufficiently firm as to hold its shape after the bullet's passage and thus can be observed.

A thoughtful experimenter struck on a new test the other day. He stood beside his swimming pool and fired into the deep end. He used a variety of rifles and an even greater number of loads. He carefully marked all his

bullets and after he had shot ten or a dozen into the tank he layed aside his rifles and dived to the bottom where he retrieved all the spent slugs. Water is many times more resistant than flesh. At the same time it is a medium



which offers the same amount of resistance for each shot. The firing had a good deal of validity so far as a comparison study went. What our tester was trying to do was to gather data on the amount of mushrooming effect he got between different bullets. He succeeded in doing this quite admirably.

• • •

AT FT. HOOD, Texas, I watched a firing line shooting at the new Army target. These targets are silhouettes and when struck by the bullet tumble over. The scorer observes the target fall and credits the marksman with a hit. "Aim low", the instructor was heard to admonish one infantryman, "you'll ricochet the bullet into the target and it will fall". This is pretty poor advice. When bullets ricochet, they do some odd-ball things.

The bullet may ricochet straight forward in line with its original path, but again it may not. It may rise at an angle of 15 degrees, may slice off at right or left at angles of as much as 45 degrees, and may skip along the ground striking down every hundred yards or so for another three-quarters mile. The new service round, the pipsqueak 5.56 mm, scarcely ricochets at all. It is a tiny missile with a very thin jacket and it hits the ground at such velocities as to disintegrate.

Low velocity bullets are worse to ricochet. The old .45 ACP is one of the worst. It is usually believed that leaden bullets such as the .38 Spl. will not glance if fired at an acute angle on the pavement. This simply ain't so. The 158-gr. thirty-eight will bounce like any of the jacketed numbers. During the days of Prohibition, a federal agent was chasing a bootlegger in Washington and concluding he was losing the race he pulled his .38 and let one go into the sidewalk about

(Continued on next page)



midway of his position and that of the fleeing culprit. The bullet struck the concrete and ricocheted at an angle of 35 degrees. It crossed the city street and struck down a congressman who was just emerging from his apartment.

Artillery rounds, and especially the anti-tank variety, are much given to ricocheting. Rifle tracers are likewise bad actors in this regard. The tracer, when it strikes, sometimes arches upward in a course 90 degrees from the original. Bullets fired into armor plate oftentimes splash particles backward at a 180 degrees and it is a dangerous practice to stand too close when trying for penetration tests in tempered metal plate.

One of the worst mediums to cause a bullet to ricochet is a body of water, especially if it is calm. A bullet may ricochet as many as 20 times and goes skipping across the lake in a series of touchdowns. Flinty soil will cause the bullet to glance and may turn it quite markedly from its original direction. Sandy loam, free of rocks, on the other hand, will slow the bullet and soon stop it.

Usually when the bullet ricochets it has struck the earth's surface not on its point but behind the point on the ogive. The next time it touches down it again bounces off the sloping forward portion and it may do this for a number of times. When finally it does strike on the nose it may bury itself in the dirt, or if it does not, will commence to keyhole. After that, it soon loses its steam and comes to a halt.

Even shot pellets will ricochet if fired into some hard surface like a city street. The bigger the pellets the more marked is the ricochet. Buckshot may glance several times if the angle is low. Smaller pellets ordinarily only ricochet once. The shot is badly flattened with its first contact and this robs the load of much oomph for the second bounce.

• • •

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(Continued on page 72)

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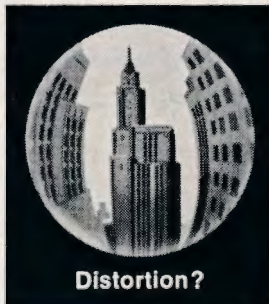
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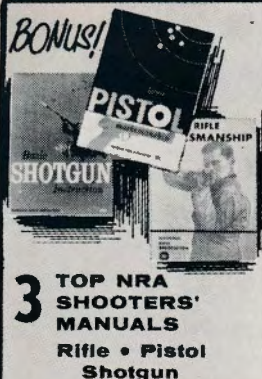
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## Q & A

(Continued from page 7)

### Readers May Know?

I have a .22 cal. semi-automatic rifle that has a sliding forearm that chambers the first round from a clip magazine. The slide makes it appear like a pump action rifle, but it isn't. The stamping on the left side of the action reads: BATAVIA AUTOMATIC RIFLE, PATENTED DEC. 14 and 28 - 09, BATAVIA, N.Y. The top of the barrel is marked: 22 SHORT SMOKELESS CTG. Can you tell me its value?

F. Sharrock  
Plainfield, Ohio

I can not come up with an answer to who, what, or where the Batavia Automatic Rifle Co. is. The only arms company that I know of in Batavia is the Syracuse Forging and Gun Company of Batavia, N.Y. Maybe one of our readers can help?—R.M.

### BIG Bore Reloading

I would like to know the kind of powder and primers used for loading the U.S. .50 caliber Browning M.G. cartridge and the type of primer used in the 20 mm ammo used in the Finnish Lahti anti-tank rifle. Where can I obtain cases, primers, and powder?

Frank L. Danze Jr.  
South Boston, Mass.

U.S. caliber .50 machine gun cartridges were loaded during WWII with DuPont I.M.R. No. 5010 powder. This powder may be obtained from B. E. Hodgdon, Inc., Shawnee Mission, Kansas. I have no information on the type of powder utilized in loading the 20 mm Lahti round. Being of Finnish nationality, it would have been loaded with a powder made by the Rikkihappo firm of Helsinki. This company produced all powder used in Finnish military ammunition during and since WWII. Much U.S.-made 20 mm ammo for other guns was loaded with DuPont I.M.R. No. 4831 powder, which is also available from B. E. Hodgdon. Primers for both the .50 and the 20 mm are special types, and, to my knowledge, unavailable to the general public. Cases for the .50 show up from time to time but I know of no legitimate source. Lahti cases are not available unloaded, but I suggest that whole rounds may be found at one of the large surplus arms importers who advertise in the pages of Guns Magazine.—G.N.

(Continued on page 73)





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# The Valiant

# VIS

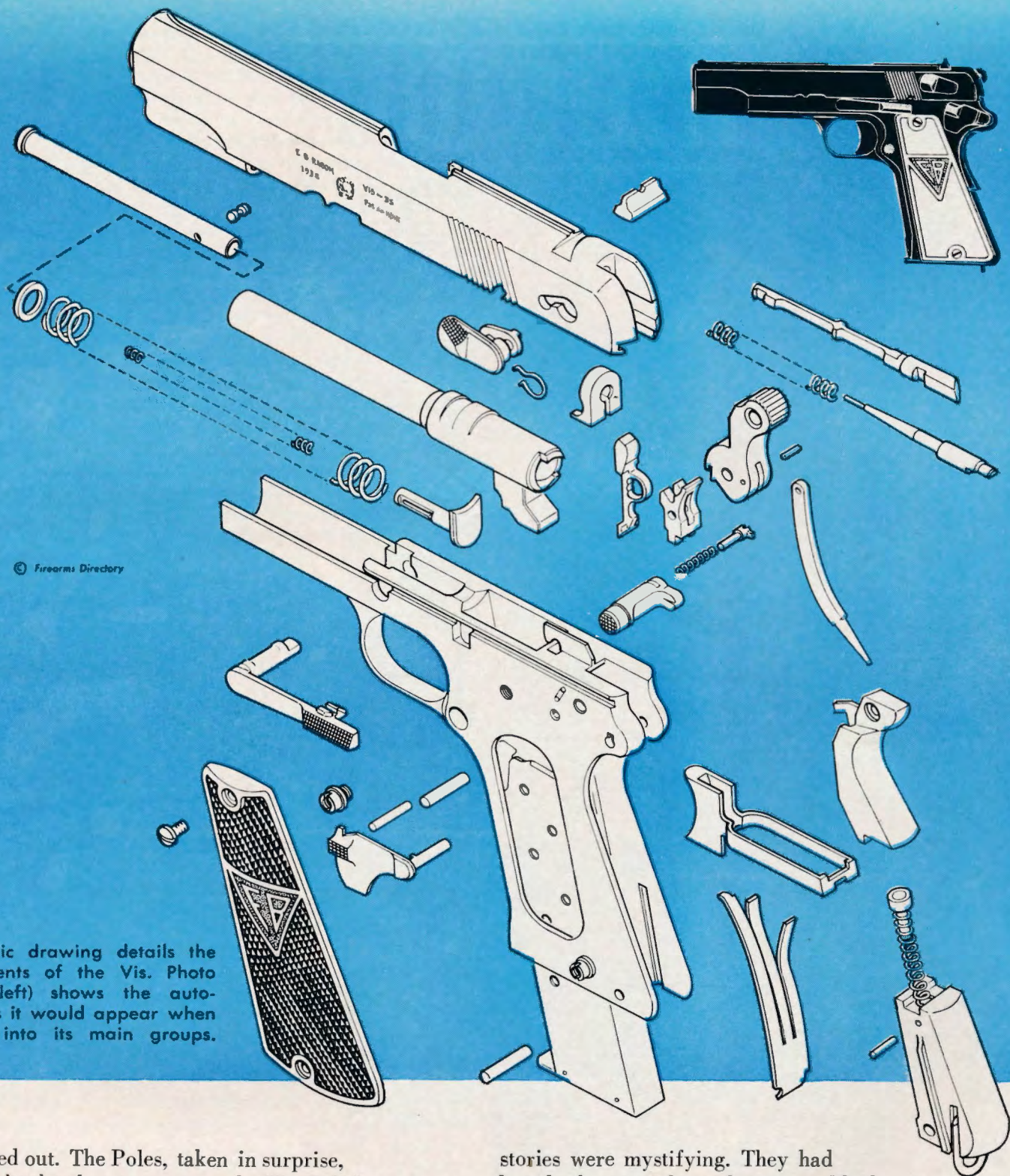
By GENE LOVITZ

**D**URING THE World War II invasion of Poland, the German armies first became familiar with the sidearm of the Polish Cavalry, the 9mm Vis automatic. On September 7, 1939, the Nazis poured thru the gates of the Radom Wall, capturing the city of Radom and the Radom Arsenal. There, Hitler's soldiers discovered large stores of these handguns. In the nearby factory of Fabryka Broni, this 'Polish Browning' was in production. Although the weapon had been known in a limited sense, this was the first time the German warlords had seen the gun in quantity. Crates were opened and the Nazi officers were each given a Vis. A detailed report was also sent to Berlin.

The capital city of Warsaw, some thirty miles north of Radom, was to fall within 24 hours. The day before, Cracow had been







© Firearms Directory

Schematic drawing details the components of the Vis. Photo (lower left) shows the automatic as it would appear when broken into its main groups.

wiped out. The Poles, taken in surprise, fought the thrust courageously. The Polish Army, oriented to the days of the sword and the lance, depended heavily on their well-trained cavalry. But horses were no match against a blitzkrieg of steel tanks and diving warplanes. Stukas screamed death cries as they dove repeatedly on the troops of cavalry. The Poles were vanquished. Carnage dotted the horizon.

However, stories filtered back from the panzer divisions who had encountered the Pomorska Brigade of Polish cavalry. The

stories were mystifying. They had heard of captured cavalymen suddenly escaping, leaving dead Germans behind. The reports were vague and concerned instances in General Heinz Guderian's tank corps, where Poles fired their sidearm when surrendering the weapon from horseback. The German High Command had heard of the Pomorska Brigade's nickname for their sidearm: "The Valiant Vis," named for the valiance the gun made possible in retaliating against the Germans, when all else failed.





#### VIS AUTOMATIC

WEIGHT .....29 oz. (approx.)  
 OVERALL LENGTH .....7 $\frac{7}{8}$  in.  
 BARREL LENGTH .....4 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.  
 MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....8 rounds



The rear of the firing pin can be seen extending from its tunnel in the breech block, before the safety is pressed.

After hearing these rumors and incomplete reports, the Nazi ordinance officers examined the Vis and reportedly concluded that if the original firing pin was replaced by an extra-long one, the drop-hammer safety would fire a chambered cartridge. If this were true, the safety, with such a substitution, in effect became an extra trigger, a trigger on the side of the gun.

The Germans then concluded that some Poles had actuated such a 'safety' with their palms while surrendering these doctored weapons, sending slugs thru unsuspecting Nazi soldiers.—The German OKW (High Command of the Armed Forces) dispatched bulletins to divisional headquarters detailing the "trick mechanism."

The German armies, badly in need of small arms, took over the production of the Vis. With forced labor, they manufactured the gun thru 1943. Such wartime models bear the Reich eagle and swastika stampings.

The Vis is commonly, and mistakenly, called the Radom. Its slide markings are responsible for this confusion. All three models are marked: "F. B. RADOM VIS MOD. 35 PAT. Nr. 15567." The original pre-war model carries the Polish eagle between "RADOM" and "VIS." This first model also is stamped "1936v" on the slide to indicate the year of manufacture. "F. B." are the initials of the factory, Fabryka Broni, while "RADOM" is merely the name of the city and arsenal of its origin. "VIS" is its formal name. "VIS" is also found on the right grip, with "FB" on the left. "MOD. 35" signifies the year, 1935, when the Polish Army adopted and authorized its production.—"VIS" is its name.

No less an authority than W. H. B. Smith, in his classic *Book of Pistols and Revolvers*, lists the Vis as the Radom. In fact, in five pages describing this Single-Action pistol, Smith never once mentions the weapon's proper name: the name which is clearly imprinted in the right grip.

The unquestioned authority, Col. Charles Askins, in his famous *The Pistol Shooter's Book*, also lists the Vis as the Radom. As yet, I have never found any book on small arms which designates the Vis as the Vis. In fact, I have never found a book on handguns that alludes to the correct name. Recently, however, I read an article that mentions the "VIS" as "the Polish name for the pistol." Yet, nineteen other times in the same article the author refers to the gun as the Radom! To paraphrase Shakespeare, perhaps a gun by any other name. . . . Or, in shades of Gertrude Stein, a gun is gun is a gun. Nonetheless, this 29 ounce maverick is the Vis.

The Vis is a variant of our Model 1911 .45 Auto and the M-1935 Hi-Power Browning. Outwardly it does look like a cross between the two. The obvious difference is that there is no barrel bushing. The section below is solid, with a small hole to accommodate the round end of the recoil spring guide. Closer examination reveals there are a number of modifications of the basic Browning-Colt designs.

In 1932, a couple of top Browning engineers from the Fabrique National d'Armes de Guerre, in Liege, Belgium, joined two Polish designers, V. Skrzypinski and S. Wilniezyc, to work on the pistol. The Polish Army wanted a new sidearm for their cavalry troops, a semi-automatic pistol chambered for the 9mm Luger cartridge. They wanted a handgun of the basic Browning-Colt 1911 design: with an innovation of a drop-hammer safety, particularly suited for mounted troops.

John M. Browning is the father of our Model 1911 U. S. Army Pistol. He designed his last pistol in 1925-26, the  
 (Continued on page 68)



ON THE NIGHT of July 14, 1881, as Garrett and two deputies (Tom McKinney and John Poe) rode quietly into the sleeping town of Fort Sumner, Garrett's career as a lawman was at its lowest ebb. For the first several months of his job, things had gone well for Garrett. Tom O'Folliard, Billy's best friend, was dead, cut down in an ambush set by Garrett and a score of deputies and other officers on the outskirts of Fort Sumner. Billy and the rest of the gang had escaped that ambush, but were cornered the next day in a rock house at Stinking Springs in Arroyo Taiban. Charlie Bowdre was killed there; and Billy, Rudabaugh, Wilson, and Pickett—trapped without food or water—surrendered.

On December 28, 1880, the Las Vegas (New Mexico) Gazette published a special edition based on an interview with Garrett's captives. The newspaper story is of interest if only because it includes a description of Billy the Kid which is markedly at variance with others later to be published:

"... he looked and acted like a mere boy. He is about five feet, eight or nine inches tall, slightly built and lithe, weighing about 140; a frank and open countenance, looking like a schoolboy, with the traditional silky fuzz on his upper lip, clear blue eyes, with a roguish snap about them, light hair and complexion. He is, in all, quite a handsome looking fellow, the only imperfection being two prominent front teeth . . . and he has agreeable and winning ways."

Months later, in early April, 1881, "William H. Bonney" (the name used in the indictment) was tried, convicted of partici-



# PAT GARRETT

*... 60 years later*

*the legend and mystery surrounding him still live on*

By E. B. MANN





Lincoln County Court House, restored to its original condition, stands in mute testimony to the Lincoln County war and the Kid's last escape.

## PAT GARRETT



"Billy the Kid"

pation in the killing of Sheriff William Brady in the town of Lincoln in 1878, when "The War" was at its height. He was sentenced to die on Friday, May 13, 1881.

So far, Garrett had fulfilled to the letter the mandate given him. But it had been a brief triumph. On April 28, 1881, Billy slipped his cuffs in the Lincoln County "jail," killed two men guarding him, and escaped. For more than two months now, Garrett had been pursuing a will-o'-the-wisp of conflicting rumors. Logically, Billy should have ridden for the border and safety. Perhaps he had done so. But Garrett remembered Billy's refusal of Governor Wallace's offer of escort out of the Territory, reasoned that Billy would be as stubborn now as he had been earlier about being driven out of New Mexico, where he had scores of friends, especially among the Spanish people, who would help him evade capture. Logical or not, Billy *had* to be somewhere in the Territory, if only so that Garrett could regain the stature he had won with Billy's capture, trial, and conviction, and had lost when Billy escaped.

Rumor had it that Billy had a girl in Fort Sumner, and Garrett had sent John Poe into the town earlier to ask Milnor Rudolph (or Rudolph) what he knew of Billy's whereabouts. Rudolph knew nothing, doubted that Billy would be so foolish as to remain where he would expect to be hunted. But there was another man who might know something: Pete Maxwell, Garrett's one-time employer.

Garrett took no chance of being recognized in Fort Sumner; there were too many people there who, if Billy were near, would tell him of Garrett's presence. So Garrett and Poe and McKinney waited until late dark before carefully circling the town to approach the Maxwell house. Here is the way Garrett tells what happened, not in the words of Ash Upson in the *Authentic Life*, but in Garrett's official report to the Territorial authorities:

"... taking with me John W. Poe and T. L. McKin-

ney... I arrived just below Fort Sumner, on Wednesday, the 13th... remained concealed... until night, and then entered the fort about midnight and went to Mr. P. Maxwell's room. I found him in bed, and had just commenced talking to him... when a man entered the room in stocking feet, with a pistol in one hand, a knife in the other. He came and placed his hand on the bed just beside me, and in a low whisper, 'who is it?' (and repeated the question), he asked of Mr. Maxwell.

"I at once recognized the man, and knew he was the Kid, and reached behind me for my pistol, feeling almost certain of receiving a ball from his at the moment of doing so, as I felt sure he had now recognized me, but fortunately he drew back from the bed at noticing my movement, and, although he had his pistol pointed at my breast, he delayed to fire, and asked in Spanish, 'Quien es, Quien es?' This gave me time to bring mine to bear on him, and the moment I did so I pulled the trigger and he received his death wound, for the ball struck him in the left breast and pierced his heart. He never spoke, but died in a minute...."

Garrett's report itself gave rise to many questions. By what authority had Garrett acted in Fort Sumner, which lay outside Lincoln County? Why had Garrett chosen as his deputies for this mission men who had never seen, nor could be expected to recognize, Billy the Kid? In the midnight darkness in Maxwell's room, darkness which prevented Billy from identifying Garrett, whom he knew very well, how could Garrett have seen that Billy carried "a pistol in one hand, a knife in the other"? In *The Authentic Life*, Garrett stretched the visual probabilities still further by stating that he was able, in that darkness, to identify Billy's gun as "a self-cocker" (i.e., a double action)—or, by deduction, a

(Continued on page 56)





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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

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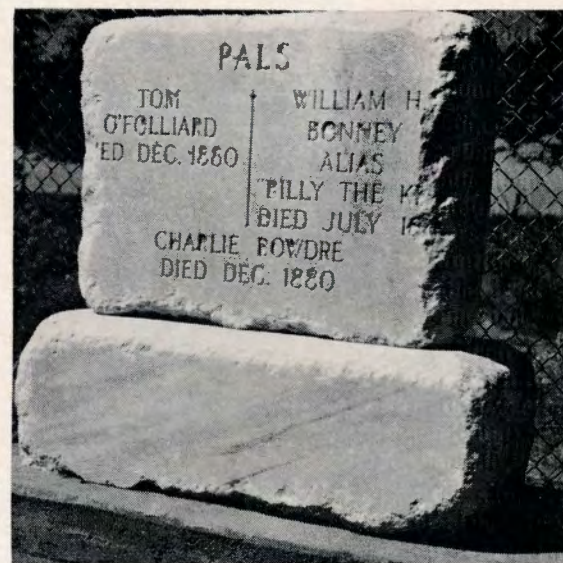
To the Attorney of the First Judicial District  
of the Territory of New Mexico:

Greeting:

This 15th day of July, 1881, A.D., I, the Justice of the Peace of the precinct above written, received the information that there had been a killing in Ft. Sumner in said precinct and said place and named (six local citizens) as jurors to investigate the matter and the said jury meeting at the house of Luz B. Maxwell, they proceeded to a room in said house where they found the body of William Bonney alias "Kid" with a bullet wound in the breast on the left side of the breast and, having examined the body they examined the evidence of Peter Maxwell which was as follows:

"As I was lying down on my bed in my room at about midnight the fourteenth (14th) of July, Pat F. Garrett came in my room and he sat on the side of my bed to talk to me. In a little while after Garrett sat down, William Bonney came in, and approached my bed with a pistol in his hand and he asked me, "Who is it? who is it?" And then Pat Garrett fired two shots at William Bonney and the said Bonney fell at one side of my fireplace, and I went out of the room. When I returned 3 or 4 minutes after the shots, the said Bonney was dead."

The said jury gives the following verdict: "We, the jury named find unanimously that William Bonney has been killed by a bullet in the left breast in the region of the heart, fired from a pistol in the hand of Pat F. Garrett, and our verdict is that the act of Garrett was justifiable homicide and we are unanimously of the opinion that the gratitude of all the community is due said Garrett for his deed and that it is worthy of being compensated."



Pals till the end, Billy was buried with his friends Tom O'Folliard and Charlie Bowdre. A wire fence now protects his headstone from vandals.



# *A Collector Views:* **COMMEMORATIVE GUNS**

By DONALD SIMMONS

SINCE THE END of World War II there have been many more people interested in collecting old firearms. We, the collectors, who collected before the war can be very happy for this influx of new blood. These neophytes have brought millions of fine old firearms out of hiding and have placed them on the collecting market. They have also, because of their numbers, forced us of the old guard to write and talk about our specialties and to share knowledge that would have been buried with us without this new interest. The new breed of collectors has also served to increase the value of all of our guns simply because there is a limited number of each type available and there is in many cases a virtually unlimited demand for them.

In the post war boom, I watched my relatively com-

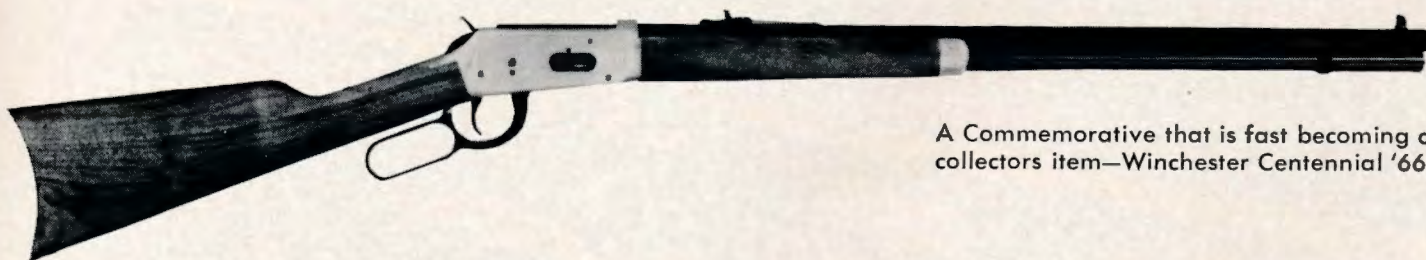


Commemorative Colt Automatic is matched with the author's Model 1911, original issue from WW I





The beautifully engraved Colt .45 (above) is a pre-war single action. The one encased at the right is the Col. Sam Colt Sesquicentennial Standard Presentation .45.



A Commemorative that is fast becoming a collectors item—Winchester Centennial '66.

mon single action Army Colt go from a \$25 gun to a \$250 gun; in a matter of a few years the decimal place moved over one position. This demand was caused by many factors but obviously the biggest factor was that there were more people collecting the same type of arm. There can't be more than 320,000 of these guns in the world since this is the approximate number made from 1873-1940. Of this number a certain percentage has been destroyed. Thus, we had a large supply but also a closed end supply of prewar single action Colts. During this postwar shortage several small domestic factories started to make copies of the original single action Colts and began selling them to shooters. But apparently even this supply was well behind demand and some West German arms firms started manufacture. Finally, Colt saw that they never should have shelved this antique

and again began manufacture in the mid 1950's. With this deluge of an obsolete pistol one would have thought that the drought was over in Colt single actions.

It is also interesting to note that we collectors were assured by everyone that this flood of reproductions could only make the values of our genuine guns go up. In retrospect, I don't think this proved to be true. I think it is obvious—if a whole rash of people, even if motivated by different reasons, all want a certain type of gun—the value of this type will go up. The pre-war Colt single action was going up and up until the reproductions hit the market. Sure, the genuine collector didn't want a copy, but many shooters did and bought them in large quantities. This reduction in demand made the fixed supply of original pre-war Colt go a lot further (Continued on page 64)



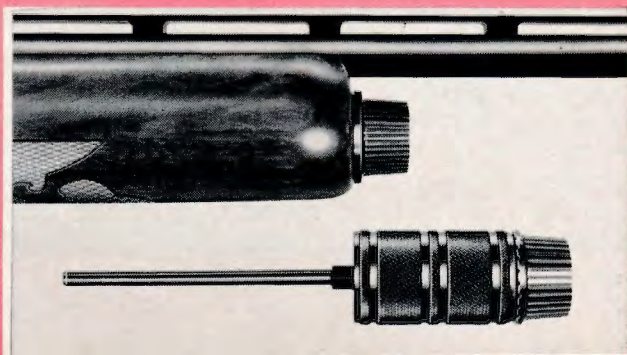
# NEW GUNS FOR //

HERE IS A PREVIEW LOOK AT THE  
NEW SHOOTING PRODUCTS FROM  
WINCHESTER-WESTERN AND REMINGTON  
THAT WILL MAKE NEWS IN '69

# 69

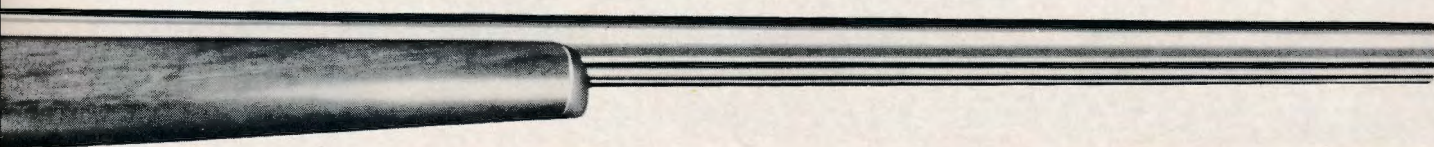
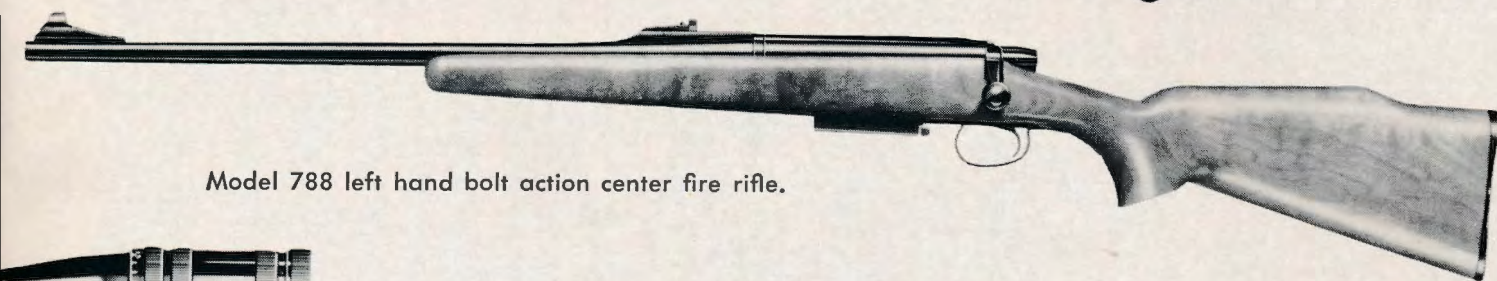


Above, Remington Model 1100 matched pair auto-loading skeet guns in 28 & 410-gauges with custom case. Shown at right, "Match-Weight Skeet Cap" for the 28 & 410-gauge Remington shotguns.

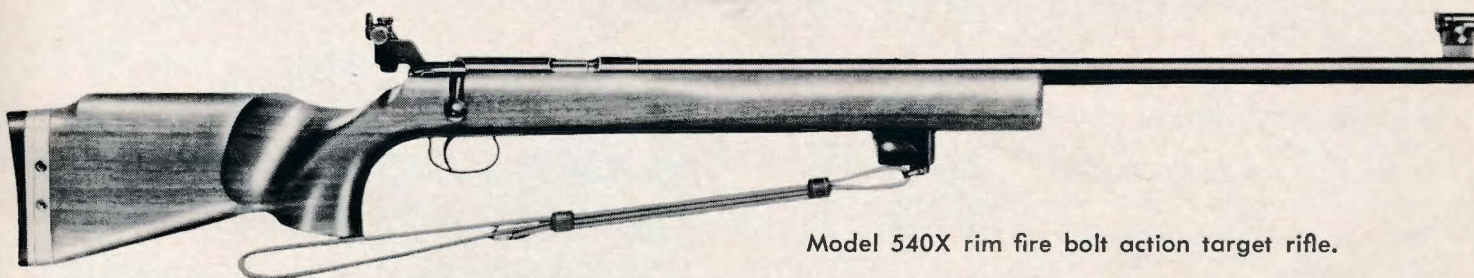




Model 788 left hand bolt action center fire rifle.



Model 540X rim fire bolt action target rifle.



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

Just before the Christmas holidays the big companies stage a roundup of all the gun editors. Remington has a big farm on the eastern shore of Maryland where we writers are invited to shoot a goose or two, and observe the conservation experiment being undertaken by the company. As part of the festivities, all the new guns and loads are unveiled during this reunion.

Winchester stages a similar extravaganza. One show usually follows the other, and this season was no exception. Immediately after the Remington get-together the Winchester-Western division of Olin invited all the authorities to Nilo Farm, near Alton, Ill. This is the site of the W-W conservation effort. Here, too, is some of the finest preserve shooting on pheasant, quail, chukars, and mallards. At the same time all the new models and the new cartridges are displayed. We shall review the new ordinance in the order of its presentation.

The most sensational news from Remington is that the company has entered the scope sight business. There is now a new Remington telescopic sight; a benchrest job in 20X with a length of 15¼ inches, a weight of 19⅜ oz., and outside mounts similar to the Super-Targetspot. It has a field at 100 yards of 7.5 ft. Adjustments in the mount are ¼ MOA. Eye lense diameter is .8650 and objective is 34 mm, eye relief is 2¼ inches. There is a movement in the objective lense for the correction of parallax at whatever range the shooter may fire. Remington is not grinding its own lenses, but is buying them from a very well known manufacturer; the scope tube

and mount is made by the company however.

This new scope is strictly for benchrest shooting. The power is too high for varmint shooting with its restrictions on field of view. Maybe this is only the beginning and other models will follow. At least we hope so.

Skeet shooters who are aficionados of the Model 1100 auto shotgun will be delighted to hear that now the 1100 is ready in .410 and 28 gauges. The 1100 is the most popular of all skeet models in 12 gauge. Now the skeet man can round out his battery with the other two small gauge numbers. The Model 870 pump repeater is also ready with the 28 and .410. Barrels are 25 inches for both models and this year the skeet marksman will have to buy a matched pair to get these peewees. In the field grade they will be sold separately.

Remington has finally admitted there are left-handers who hunt and shoot! As a matter of fact they made a survey and found that southpaws run as high as 15% of the shooting population, and they have done something about this. The new Model 788 rifle, announced in '66 as a moderately priced bolt action—it has 9 locking lugs about 2½ inches behind the head of the bolt—is now made for the portsider, in 6 mm and .308 calibers. Along with this center-fire is a sturdy .22 bolt action clip loader, the Model 581. It, too, is made up in a special version for lefthanders, the forgotten minority.

The Model 540X .22 target rifle is a newcomer to the scene. It uses the same action as the 580 series rimfire rifles. The bolt has 6 lugs, located around the periphery





Pictured here are the firearms editors who were on hand for W-W new model introductions.

and locking not into the receiver ring but into the receiver bridge.

The 540X weighs 8½ lb., has a 26-inch heavy barrel and a target-designed stock. The lock time is extremely fast with a completely adjustable trigger pull. The rifle may be had with or without sights. If with sights, the Redfield #75 rear and #63 front are available. The stock has a fully adjustable buttplate which is movable for length of pull, upward or downward, or may be canted to left or right. The stock has a thumb groove. In the forestock is a slide rail and a front swivel block.

There is also a new varmint and benchrest rifle in center-fire, the 40XBR. It has a newly designed fore-end with a broad flat side so that it will work excellently in the pedestal rest favored by benchresters. The revamped rifle comes in two weights in accord with NBRA rules. The first is 10½ lb. with scope, and the heavier version goes 13½ pounds. The new number will accept the equally new Remington scope and this may be mounted entirely on the receiver of the rifle. Stock has a length of pull of only 12 inches. This is to permit the marksman to get up closer to the scope. Barrels are of stainless steel. The rifle is available in all the accepted benchrest calibers.

Despite the fact that the Model 700 big game rifle is one of the most popular in the game fields, the design people have made a few changes in it. One of the best of these was to chamber the rifle for the 6.5 Rem. Magnum and .350 Rem. Magnum calibers. Other modifications include an engine-turned bolt, a new shroud for the back end of the bolt, and a lowered safety with a rounded shape instead of the original rectangular form. The butt is a bit slimmed down in the stock and the cheekpiece has also been offered with a slimmer silhouette. Skip-line checkering is available in the BDL version.

The Winchester-Western gathering at Nilo Farm, the home base of John Olin, was notable for a great deal of fine field shooting on pheasants, ducks, and pigeons. The performance of the Labrador retrievers under the superb handling of a pair of brothers, Cotton and Harry Pershall, is worth the whole admission. John Olin always has his Labs in contention for the national retriever



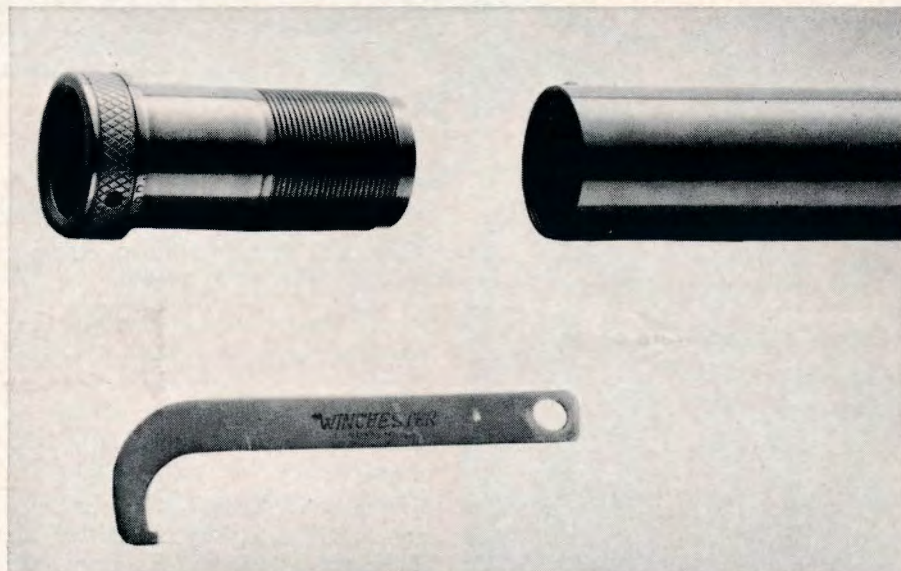
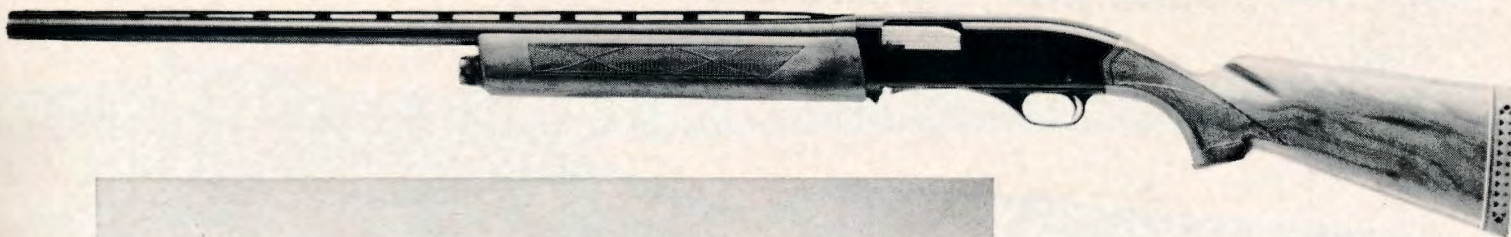
Two new air pistols from Winchester are the Model 353 (top) and the Model 363 (bottom) in .177 and .22 cal.

championships and his frequent winnings of the national title are due to the remarkable skill of the Pershall duo. As for the new Winchester models these were timely and extremely interesting.

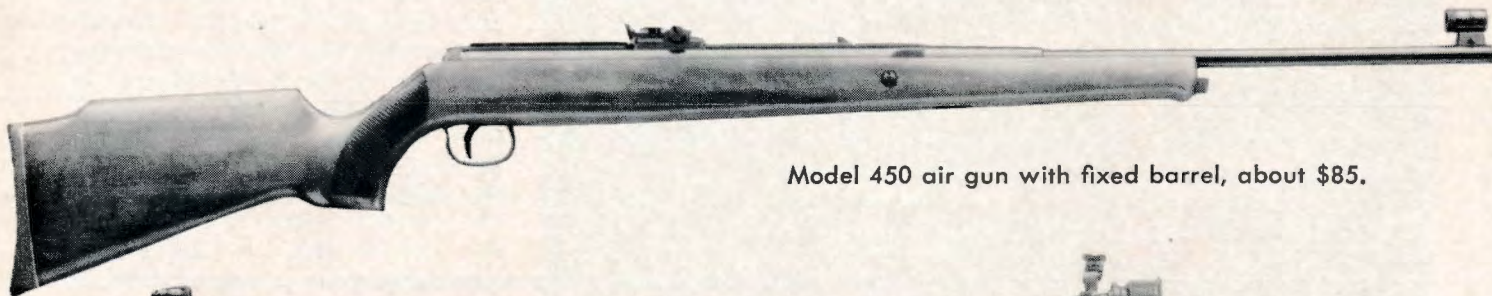
Winchester-Western has been stung by the fact that at last year's Olympics the twenty-two rifle most preferred by the hard nose contingent who shot the games was the Anschütz; and the rimfire ammo most often used was Eley. The companies have resolved to regain the prestige formerly enjoyed by the Model 52 rifle and by W-W target ammo. To this end there is a new Model 52, the



# WINCHESTER



Above, left-handed Model 1400 field gun with vent rib. At left, "Winchoke" an interchangeable choke tube for the Model 1400 & 1200 shotguns. Screws into muzzle. In 12, 16, 20 gauges. For use with 28" barrel only.



Model 450 air gun with fixed barrel, about \$85.



Model 333 air gun with automatic safety, about \$170.

International model. As for the .22 target cartridges, this program has been put in the hands of Bill Williams, the engineering genius on .22 target ammo.

The new Model 52 International has a specially selected 28-inch heavy barrel, a laminated thumbhole stock with an adjustable aluminum buttplate, movable in three directions and adjustable for cant, either left or right. There is also a movable International palm rest. Either the standard Winchester trigger or the Kenyon can be selected. The rifle may be mounted with any micrometered iron sights, but is tapped and drilled for scope sights. This is the

rifle with which Winchester expects to dominate the forthcoming World Matches.

There is now a full line of Winchester air guns; some eight rifles and two pistols. This is the first time a major arms company has offered a complete line of pellet models. These are not BB guns, but have rifled barrels and fire the .177 or .22 caliber waisted pellets. The smallest, lightest, and cheapest of the new Winchester line sells for \$15.95. The finest of the eight is the Model 333 (named after the NRA pellet marksmanship program) and will sell for \$169.95. This later rifle is for (Continued on page 66)



# TRIPLE TWO

By HARRY O. DEAN



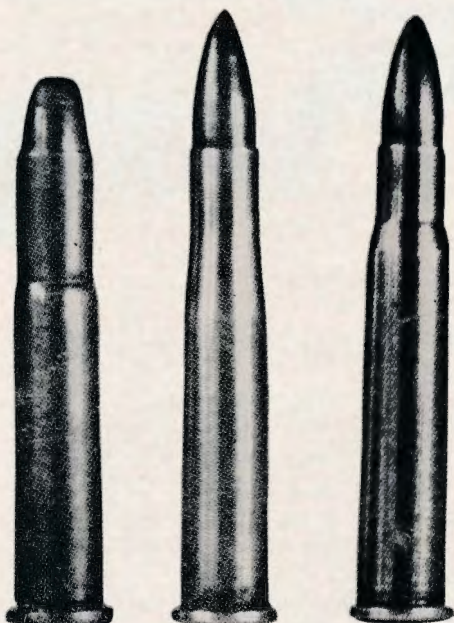
The "triple two" accounted for an increase in Remington rifle sales, notably the 722.

**T**HE REMINGTON Arms Company announced a new small game and varmint cartridge back in 1950, named the .222 Remington. They didn't know it at the time, but they had started rolling a small snowball that got bigger and bigger until it just about crushed every other cartridge that had ever been popular for small game. The new .222 Remington cartridge was fully deserving of every accolade it received. It was small, neat, attractive, had a mild report, was economical to reload, and above all, it was so fantastically

accurate that it put all other cartridges in the shade. Yes, for such a small cartridge, the .222 Remington certainly casts a long shadow.

Prior to the advent of the "triple two" Remington, the varmint field was occupied by a random scattering of cartridges, many of them wildcats. The .22 Hornet was still holding its own as the most popular of the "settled area" calibers. There were a number of shooters who felt that a heavier bullet, of around 50 grains, would have better ranging qualities and be less sensi-

tive to wind. The .218 Bee had been announced, using the Hornet bullet at a stepped up velocity. The buzz of the Bee never got very loud; it never really out-hummed the Hornet. Another brief flirtation was the .219 Zipper. Larger and more powerful, the Zipper came unzipped for lack of a suitably accurate rifle. The .220 Swift was highly touted and it was a real long range blaster but therein lay the trouble. Good as it was, the tiny .22 bore of the swift had a loud and raucous bark that shattered the hillside. This caused



## Evolution of Speed:

The old .22-20 single shot (far left) preceded the .22-3000 Lovell alongside it. The shouldered R-2 version is next in line, while the rimless .222 Remington appears at the right.





# TERROR...

many a fretful farmer to hotfoot out and holler, "What in tarnation is goin on!" The Swift was for *open* country!

Turning the pages back to 1933, we find a gunsmith named Hervey Lovell amusing himself with a snappy little varmint cartridge of his own making. He used the old straight-walled .25-20 single shot cartridge and necked it to .22 caliber with a long tapered shoulder. He found that he could achieve about 3000 feet per second using the .22 Hornet bullet. He called it the ".22-3000", and after describing it in the "American Rifleman" magazine, he was deluged with requests to make up rifles. Case dimensions were finally standardized and published and thereafter other gunsmiths were kept busy making up special rifles for the cartridge which now bore the name ".22-3000 Lovell."

What Mr. Lovell didn't know was that Charles Newton had done the very same thing around the turn of the century but was hampered by poor powders.

Gun experimenter and target buff Harvey Donaldson of Fultonville, N.Y. found the .22-3000 an interesting and accurate cartridge but could not resist the opportunity to develop it further. He consorted with gunsmith M. S. Risley of Earlville, N.Y. and they set about to modernize the case and improve the ballistics. The version which showed the most promise was called the R-2 Lovell and it allowed the use of heavier bullets for improved ranging qualities. The Risley version proved so accurate and so flexible in its loading characteristics that the majority of .22-3000 Lovell owners had their chambers recut to the R-2 version. My own R-2 Lovell was a Stevens 44½ action with heavy barrel relined and chambered by Parker O. Ackley. With 8-X scope, it accounted for its share of Western New York woodchucks. (Continued on page 62)



## .222 Remington Technical Data

The .222 Remington uses a 50 grain soft point spitzer bullet. A metal cased bullet of identical ballistics is available for special applications where a non-expanding bullet is desired. (i.e. Turkey) The following are the ballistics of factory loads:

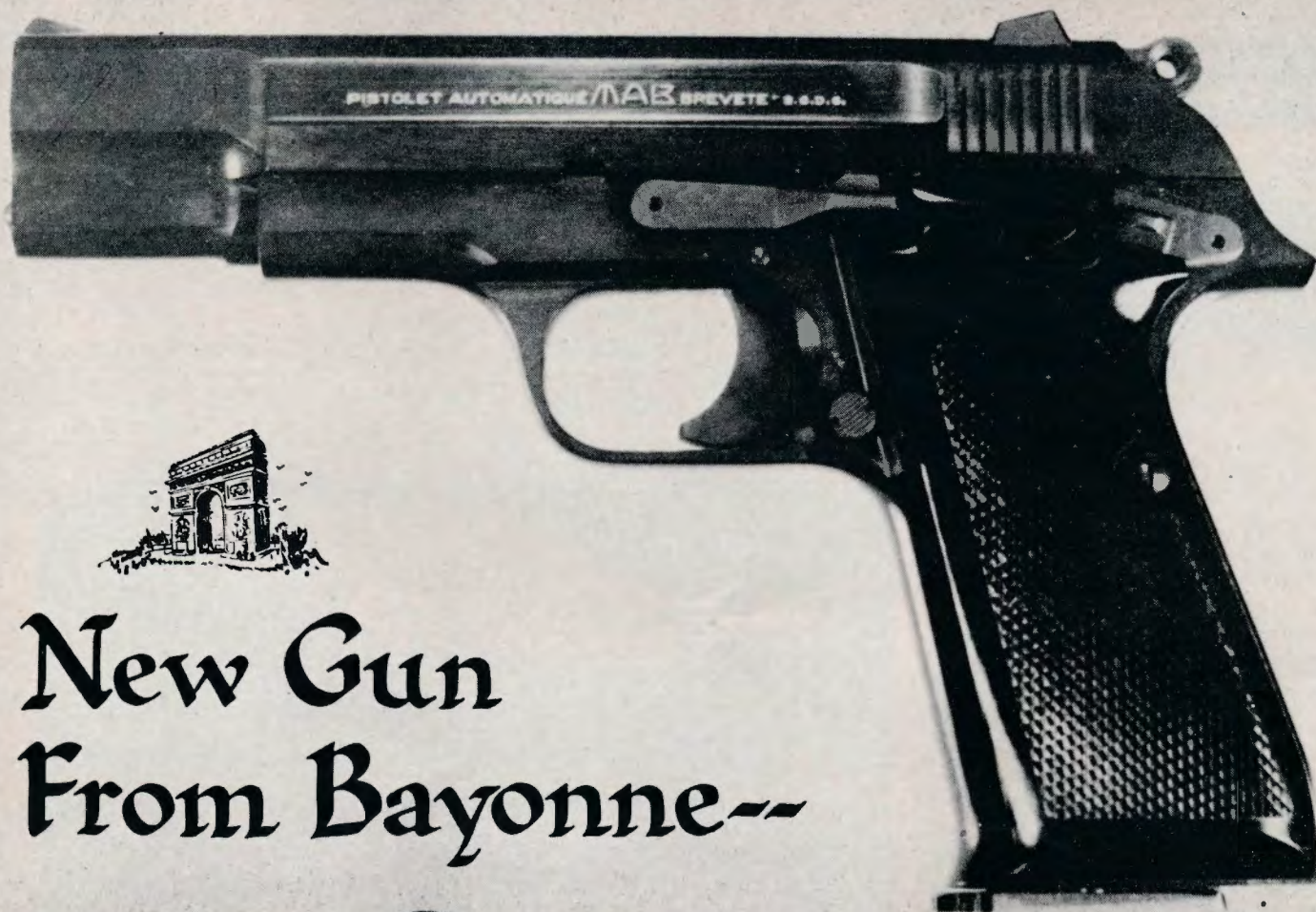
Muzzle	Velocity—Feet per Second		
	100 Yards	200 Yards	300 Yards
3200	2650	2170	1750
1140	Energy—Foot Pounds		
	780	520	340

Many .222 owners sight their rifles to zero at 200 yards with the bullet striking 2" high at 100 yards. To narrow the vertical dispersion (especially the rise) from the muzzle to the practical range limit of 250 yards, the author favors a zero at 175 yards with scope sighted rifles. The approximate impact points at various ranges will then round out as follows: ½ inch high at 50 yards, 1½ inch high at 100, 1 inch high at 150, 1 inch low at 200 and 4¾ inches low at 250 yards. Individual rifles will show slight variations due to scope height.

Roughly, this indicates that your .222 will strike within a 6 inch vertical from bore to target. For example: on a sitting woodchuck, you should hold on the chest up to 200 yards. Beyond 200 yards, you hold on the head and the bullets will strike the chest area. Try it!

Handloaders may better the factory load by using the 50 grain bullet and 24 grains Dupont #3031. For higher retained velocity (like the .222 Magnum) try the same Dupont recommended load of 24 grains of #3031 but with the 55 grain spitzer bullet at 3155 feet per second. A slower start to a faster finish!





## New Gun From Bayonne--

# MAB PA-15

By J. B. WOOD

AT THE END of a Monarch's reign, French crowds of an earlier day would shout: "The King is dead! Long live the (new) King!" The old "King," in terms of magazine capacity, the Browning P-35 Hi-Power, is still very much alive, but comparison with a new pistol from France is inevitable. The Browning's original Belgian magazine holds 13 rounds; the Canadian-made Inglis magazine holds 14. The new French pistol has a magazine capacity of 15 rounds, one more round than the Canadian P-35.

Just over a year ago, the MAB firm of Bayonne, France, introduced a new military automatic. Its designation, Pistolet Automatique 15, refers proudly to its record magazine capacity. Only one other pistol has surpassed this number in a grip-mounted magazine: The SIG Neuhausen Model SP 44/16, an experimental Swiss sidearm which was discontinued before attaining full production.

The new Model PA-15 has other distinctive design points, one of the most interesting being its locking system. Most automatics presently made for the 9 mm Luger cartridge utilize some application of the falling barrel design,



the exceptions being the Walther P-38 and Beretta 951, which use a plunger-activated tilting block. The MAB PA-15 reaches back into the early days of automatic design for a system developed by Georges Roth, and employed in his Roth-Steyr and Steyr-Hahn pistols. A top-mounted lug on the barrel contacts an angled track in the slide, requiring the barrel to rotate a short distance before the slide can open. The action of the bullet in the rifling tends to retard this rotation, keeping the breech closed during the moment of high pressure before the bullet has left the barrel.

This system has also been used, with a lesser degree of rotation, in retarded blowback pistols such as the Savage Model 1908 and Czech Model 1926. One of the advantages of the turning-barrel design is its progressive release, which will function with lower initial breech pressure than the square-lug systems, yet still be strong enough to contain higher pressure loads. The application to light target loads is obvious.

When you first take the PA-15 in hand, the first impression is that it's

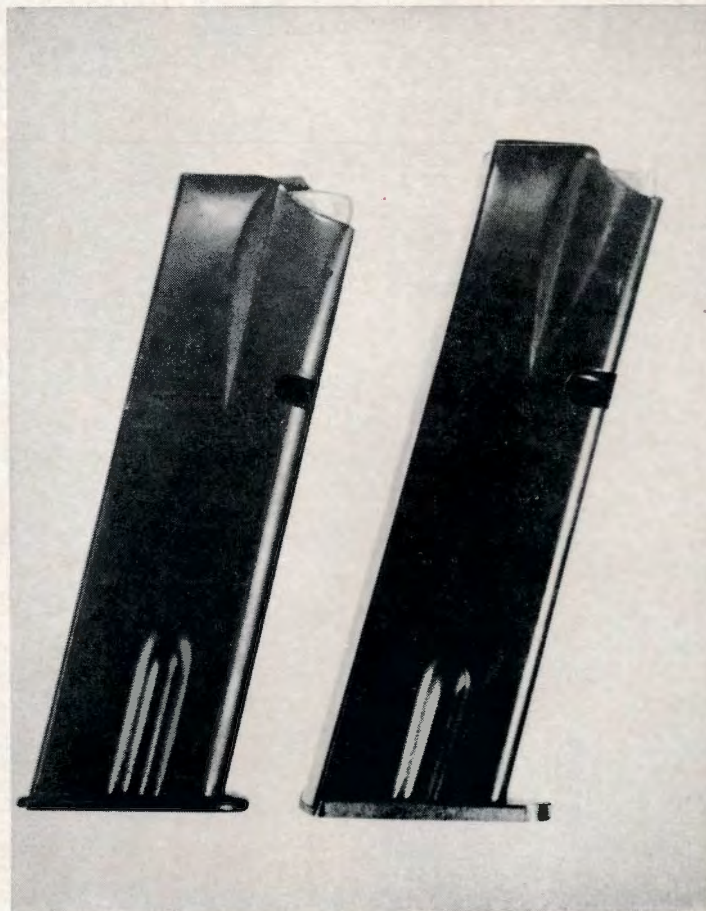
heavy, which is surprising, because of its lack of bulkiness. This weight, fifteen hundredths of an ounce more than the U.S. .45 Service Pistol, is achieved by the MAB's very solid construction. There is very little skeletonizing of frame and slide, just enough for parts clearance and no more. This added weight seems to keep the pistol rock-steady in the shooter's hand, reduces recoil, and naturally aids accuracy.

Grip angle is good, and quite comfortably shaped. My pistol has checkered black plastic composition grips, standard on the commercial version, with the "MAB" trademark, initials in a round-ended rectangle, at top center. The French military model has wooden grips, horizontally grooved. The frame has sufficient rear overhang to prevent hammer-pinching of even the fleshiest hand. Finish is a medium-dark European blue, not highly polished in keeping with its intended military or combat use. Slide latch, safety catch, and magazine release are positioned for easy operation by the shooter's thumb, without changing the hand position. The slide latch is long enough for good leverage, has a well-grooved surface,

and extends back into the top corner of the grip. The safety directly blocks the sear, and has a positive, satisfying click between its two positions. Magazine release is the push-button type, located at the lower left rear of the trigger guard. Slide serrations are wide and deep-cut, with narrow raised ribs, affording a very positive grip for slide retraction.

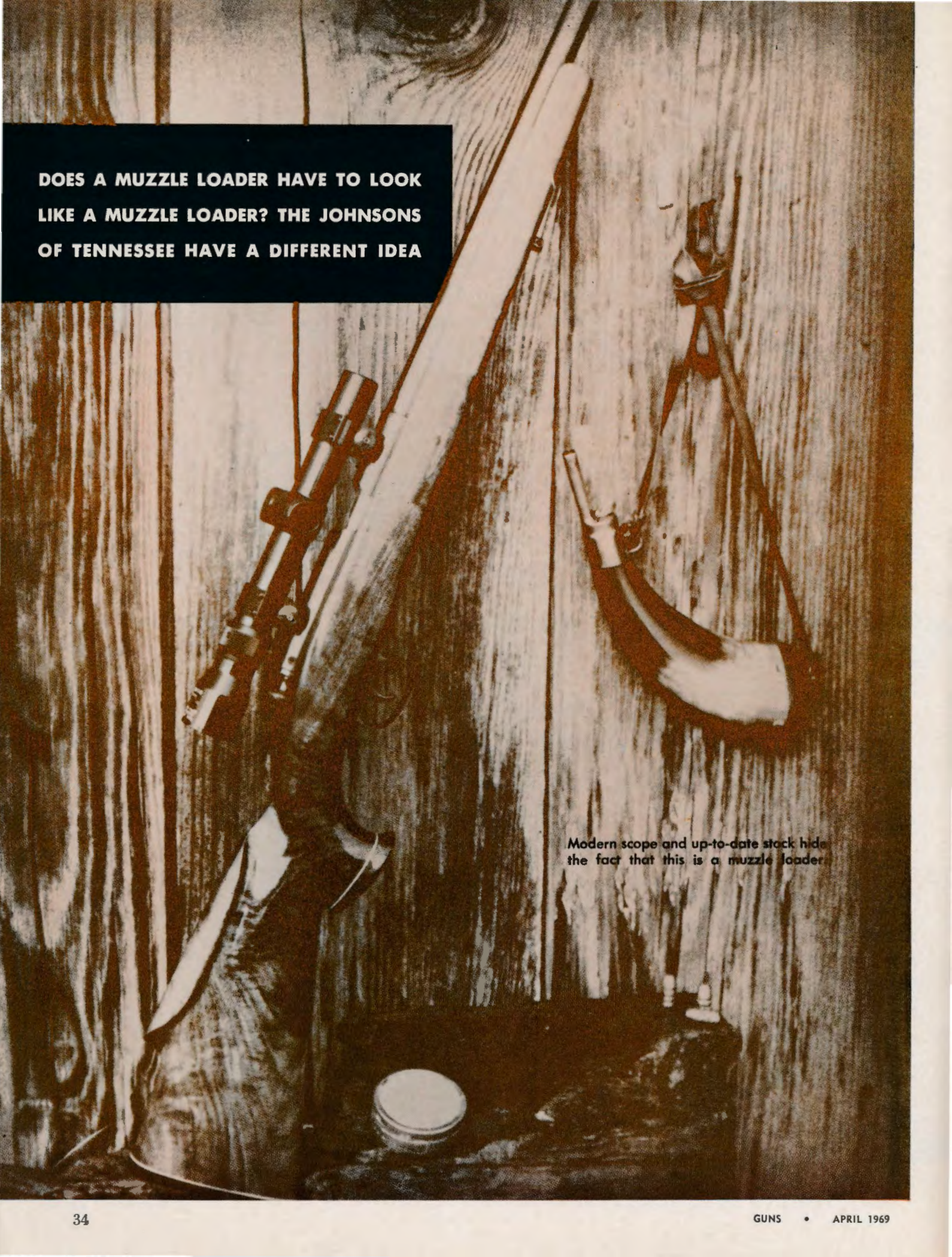
There is one safety feature in the MAB design which can prove annoying. The magazine safety, which prevents firing when the magazine is not in the pistol, does not act on the trigger, as is the usual practice. Instead, it bears directly on the sear. Thus, when the hammer is down and the magazine withdrawn, the slide cannot be opened, since the blocked sear will bind on the hammer. I have always felt that a magazine safety, like the grip safety, is of no value in a large military or combat pistol, and might prove to be a fatal nuisance. While changing magazines, it is, under certain conditions, reassuring to keep one round ready in the chamber. In the PA-15, however, the magazine safety is easily

(Continued on page 61)



Field-stripped, the MAB PA-15 breaks down into six basic parts. (Note the simplicity of its components.) Compared to the Browning P-35 magazine (left) the MAB PA-15 holds an extra round.





**DOES A MUZZLE LOADER HAVE TO LOOK  
LIKE A MUZZLE LOADER? THE JOHNSONS  
OF TENNESSEE HAVE A DIFFERENT IDEA**

Modern scope and up-to-date stock hide  
the fact that this is a muzzle loader.



# MODERN

## *Muzzle Loaders*

By JIM CARMICHEL



The modern muzzle-loaders may be different, but the clouds of smoke they make will gladden any M-L fan.

WHETHER IT BE mousetraps, washing machines or ladies' foundations, someone, somewhere, is going to dream up a better, or at least different, design. It was inevitable therefore, that the centuries-old design of the traditional muzzle-loading rifle should fall under the critical appraisal of some of our more progressive minded firearms engineers and designers. As a matter of fact even during the so-called "Golden Age" of the Kentucky rifle there were a few gunsmiths who sought to streamline or revamp the tradition-dictated forms and designs.

Most of these departures, however, involved nothing more radical than a shortened barrel, slightly altered stock (such as the addition of a pistol grip) or improved sighting equipment. The externally mounted firing mechanism, the lock, which was the single most characteristic and dominating feature of the M-L firearm be it matchlock, wheel-lock, flintlock or caplock, remained virtually unchanged for several centuries. It remained for a trio of Tennessee gunsmiths to overcome centuries of tradition and put the muzzle loading rifle in the middle of the Twentieth Century.

At first thought one may wonder why anyone would want to modernize a firing system which is archaic at

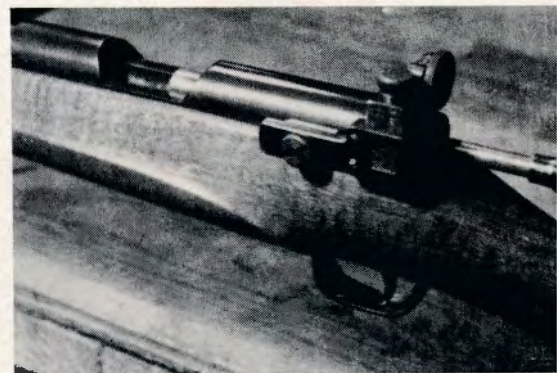
best. Indeed, the purists may respond with outright resentment to the idea of anyone attempting to improve on the long, graceful, impeccably baroque lines of the Kentucky rifle. Was this not the rifle that won America, the hallowed and sacred symbol of our forefathers, the epitome of Americana?

Actually, in recent years, there has come about a rather urgent demand in some areas for a muzzle loading rifle which incorporates the features of the modern rifle. In Tennessee, for example, as in some other states, there is a special deer hunt sponsored by the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission for muzzle loading rifles only. Many otherwise competent hunters have found that they simply cannot handle the unweildy traditional style rifle under actual hunting conditions and complain of accidental discharges, lost game and inability to raise and aim the longer rifles. Others, even those accustomed to firing the Kentucky rifle, have encountered conditions in the rugged Tennessee mountains where the dense undergrowth actually made it impossible to fire or even pass through. Other hunters expressed a reluctance to expose their valuable and delicate antique rifles to the rigors of deer hunting. Clearly what was needed was a light, short rifle which would be tough enough to stand hard use, quick

to aim and fire, and still meet the specified requirements of a true muzzle loading rifle.

Too, the fast growing army of black powder target shooters and plinkers had long expressed a desire for a rifle which could be handled and fired with the ease of a modern rifle yet retain the fascination of pouring a charge of powder down the barrel and ramming home a lead ball. Those addicted to the use of telescopic sights were particularly vexed by the problems of mounting scopes on M-L rifles of traditional styling so here too, a new design was called for.

With these criteria established it re-



With the cocking knob to the rear the priming port is opened. When fired the bolt seals off the gases from the port.





Here Clay Johnson mills a recoil lug. It takes about 25 hours to finish the actions on each rifle.

## MUZZLE LOADERS

mained only for three black powder enthusiasts, who also happen to be gunsmiths, to find the right answer.

These three, Clay Johnson, a master machinist, his son Dole Johnson, a gun repair and design specialist and James Connen, stockmaker, all of whom run Johnson's Gun Shop of Elizabethton, Tennessee, combined their talents and specialties to produce a line of attractive, reliable and truly different muzzle loading rifles. These rifles were such an immediate hit among the cap and ball clan that even today, nearly three years after their first rifle was produced, production has not caught up with the orders.

These rifles are so trim and modern in design that only a close inspection will reveal their true nature. Most are scope equipped and stock design leans toward the racy, ultramodern style complete with thumbholes.

Like any well engineered device the

action is extremely simple. Excluding the trigger the only moving part in the entire rifle is the plunger. This solid, one-piece bolt-like part includes the cocking piece, cocking piece shaft and firing bolt. The piece is cocked by drawing the cocking knob to the rear until the sear engages. The sear itself is of the simple but foolproof primary type—the sear is an integral part of the trigger arm and becomes engaged by falling into a notch in the bolt as the cocking piece is drawn to the rear.

Cocking the piece opens the priming port and exposes the nipple. Placing the percussion cap on the nipple is accomplished with about as much difficulty as placing a cartridge in the chamber of a single shot .22 R.F. rifle though the process could conceivably become somewhat difficult with cold fingers and would be almost impossible while wearing gloves.

Upon firing, the bolt seals off the port and, due to a recess in the bolt face, completely encloses the cap and nipple—thus creating a virtually gas proof closure. This is considerably safer than the conventional external hammer and nipple arrangements where fire, smoke and cap fragments are free to fly in all directions. Also, with this arrangement the nipple screws directly into the breech plug thus allowing a straighter and much shorter fire route from the cap to the powder charge. Hangfires have thus been eliminated and the only misfires have been due to a faulty cap. Too, both the bolt and breech plug are of stainless steel thus eliminating the possibility of corrosion due to powder fouling or priming residue.

Another unique feature of these rifles is the breeching system. Unlike the usual breech plugs of M-L rifles where a threaded plug is screwed into an enlarged (and thus weakened) threaded cavity in the rear of the barrel, the plug is sandwiched between the rear shoulder of the barrel and a shoulder within the receiver. When the barrel is screwed into the receiver the plug is held rigidly in place between the two opposing shoulders.

A large solid mauser type recoil lug, unique among muzzle loaders, is also locked between the barrel and receiver giving the entire underside of the action an appearance very similar to the underside of a Remington 40-X action. The (Continued on page 71)



A trio of Southern muzzle-loaders. Styles run from classic to modern to ultra-modern thumbhole. Base price for these rifles is approximately \$150.





## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF *Miniature Guns*

By MERRILL LINDSAY

THE WORD "MINIATURE" is derived from the Latin "minium," a color used in the initial letters of manuscripts, in which small scenes were painted. Well known among collectors are miniatures of paintings, military figurines and, of course, firearms.

In 1793, the Reverend W. Goodale was supervising the digging of some post holes for his back yard fence in the then residential area of old London when he spied a small bronze object lying half covered on a mound of dirt. The little bit of bronze turned out to be a pop gun pistol six inches long; a working toy cast in the years just preceding 1600. The miniature pistol, which was used by





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children much like a modern cap pistol, was molded in the shape of a contemporary pear-butt wheel lock.

When the future Louis XIII of France was a toddler in the court-yards of Versailles, his toys, as befitting his rank, consisted of a working toy musket with a gold and silver embroidered bandolier, an arquebus, a pistol, and a solid silver cannon. When he was taken to visit his father's gruff old skinflint of a treasurer, Sully, at the royal arsenal and treasure house, Sully presented the future king with a miniature bow and arrow set and a jeweled poignard encrusted with rubies.

The royal playthings of Louis XIV were even grander. Sculptor George Chassel designed, and court goldsmith Merlin executed royal toys in the form of miniature soldiers, guns, and siege machines. This bit of extravagant whimsy cost the French court exchequer 50,000 ecus—\$125,000 by today's reckoning.

As fascinating as the history of military miniatures may be, this is a field unto itself. Our interest here is focused on weapons rather than soldiers; the marvelous examples of the watchmaker's, the machinist's, and the jeweller's skill, which, in spite of their small size, usually function and sometimes shoot. As the tiny firearms were often engraved, sculpted, and inlaid with ivory or precious stones, they are more apt to represent sporting weapons rather than plainer military models. At no time since the invention of guns have there been more than a handful of craftsmen living at one time who had the skills and patience to make these masterpieces. The few pieces, whether modern or ancient, which are not already in museums, command prices comparing with the finest jewelry.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, though there was presumably more fine hand craftsmanship and more lei-

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1. (Opening page): Miniature Boutet nestles under the original. Made by Billy Johnson. 2. Full size wheel lock shows scale of the five miniatures in the Harry Knode collection. 3. Over-under breech-loading flint pistols by August Francotte, 1845, from author's collection. 4. Gold framed wheel lock pistols with hunting crossbow; pistols are 4½" over-all; from Berger collection. 5. Three-barrel matchlock from Venice; author's collection.



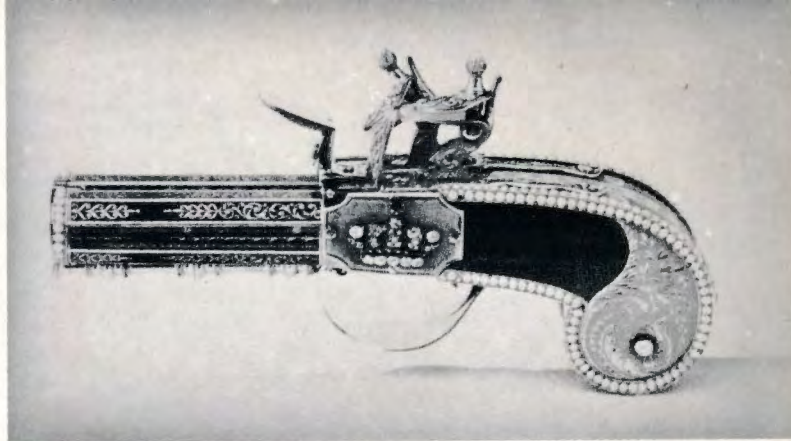


sure than there is today, a miniature masterpiece was worth a king's ransom, or at least a noble's estate. Here is an example:

The double barrelled gold miniature pistol illustrated here is in the collection of a Swiss doctor. It is encrusted with pearls on the grips, diamonds on the frame, and had polished moonstones instead of flint in the diminutive cocks. The pistol contains both a clockwork and music box mechanism (it is properly described as an automata). When the pistol is cocked and "fired", a jewelled bird flies out of the end of the barrels and perches on the golden front sight. For about a minute the bird sits there opening and closing his beak and gently flapping his jewelled iridescent wings. In accompaniment with the bird's motion, the music box concealed in the body of the pistol plays an approximation of a real bird's song. When the tune is completed, the bird folds his wings and disappears down the barrels where he came from. The cycle is ready to repeat when the hammers are cocked. Originally made for a French nobleman in the court, it cost its owner a chateau on the Loire including the vineyards and villages for miles around. In the 1890's, approximately one hundred and seventy-five years later, this same piece was offered at auction at Southeby's in London. It then brought 13,500 guineas. Today I would hesitate to speculate on the price that it would bring. It isn't for sale anyway.

There is much to be said for the collection of miniatures. They do not take up too much space in today's compact living quarters, and they permit a gun collector to pursue his hobby without the nuisance of requiring a permit and a license signed by Senator Dodd. As an investment they are great. There could well be a surplus of gold or a slump in the diamond market, but there will never be a surplus of hand craftsmanship of this high degree. Also, a fine miniature takes up less space in a safe or a safe deposit box than grandmother's flat silver. But who wants to bury his collection unless he is going away on a vacation? Harry Knode, who has one of the fine miniature collections in America, has it all figured out. He has a lucite table constructed with removable legs. The table top is actually a sandwich of two layers of lucite with his entire collection exhibited beneath the top "glass."

What I would like to do is to take you on a tour of a few of the world's finest miniature gun collections in museums and in private hands. The oldest pieces as noted, dated from the mid-16th century. The newest are the work of jeweller Billy Johnson of Birmingham, Alabama, Agnoletto Walter of Turin, Italy and Raymond E. Hutchens of Indianapolis. In the nineteenth century, minia-



*Magnificent double barrel gold pistol set with pearls and diamonds. Enclosed music box and a small bird are activated by trigger. Circa 1780.*

ture subcalibre flintlock muff pistols were made in Liege by the famous shotgun manufacturer, August Francotte. Other even smaller percussion pistols with ivory grips were made in cased sets the size of a cufflink box by Belgian craftsmen. In Paris, Flobert, Caron and Gastime Renette, fine custom gunmakers in the mid-1800's, made cased miniatures of the full-sized guns that they built on custom order.

Some years ago, Tom Weston moved from the United States to Mexico City where he engaged Mexican craftsmen to manufacture cased sets of Colt Patersons complete with charging tools and accessories. He also had other historical pistols reproduced including the Southern derringer. These miniatures do not have quite the quality of one-of-a-kind pieces, but on the other hand, they are miniatures of what were originally mass produced weapons. Sometimes you run into superb pieces in private collections which have been made by the collector himself. In these rare cases where the maker is not considering time or money, you will find some of the rarest pieces of all.

Such pieces, while not for sale at any price, can sometimes be obtained by trading. On a European tour while I was lecturing on my book, *One Hundred Great Guns*, I gave a short illustrated talk to the Academia di San Marciano, the Arms and Armour Society of Italy. After my lecture, Agnoletto, a member whom I did not know at the time, showed me the daVinci crossbow wheel lock which he had made for himself, taking 2500 hours in the process. Finding that he had previously made the three barrel model of Charles V's revolver for Johnson, I asked him if it was for sale. The answer was no. Agnoletto has his own manufacturing business and making this crossbow wheel lock was his hobby. However, I found out that

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1. A Spanish miquelet blunderbuss pistol, circa 17th century; only 4½" over-all. 2. Miniature martial pistols shown with a full size N.P. Ames; from the Harry Knode collection. 3. Miniature Kentucky rifle and pistol, made by Billy Johnson. 4. Made in the Mexican arsenal, 1881, these three miniatures include a Mauser, a trapdoor Springfield, and a Remington rolling block.



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Agnoletto, along with many other Italian and European collectors, was fascinated with American firearms associated with the early days in the West—Colts, Sharps, Smith and Wessons, Winchesters, Kentuckies and Plains rifles. When I got home I started a correspondence with Agnoletto about the possibilities of a swap. A year and a half later, I was seven long guns and five antique pistols short, but I own a one-of-a-kind daVinci designed crossbow wheel lock miniature with engraved silver hull and the lion of St. Mark of Venice sculptured on the butt.

The oldest firearms miniatures were made within 25 years of the weapons which they were copies of—the right angle or sloping grip Nuremberg all-metal ball-butt horse pistols. The originals were built in the 1550's and '60's and the miniatures came after in the 1570's, '80's and '90's. The scale models run in size from just over an inch in length to more than seven inches long. They are scaled from originals which measures from 14 to 26 inches. They were either made as apprentices masterpieces, as has been explained, or they may have been made for collectors of their day.

You will see, if you look at the illustrations closely, that many of the miniature pistols, although no bigger than watch charms, were intended not only to function correctly, but also to shoot. Obviously the guns were too small to be held and fired in a conventional manner. The trigger guards would not allow enough space for the trigger finger. There were two usual solutions to the problem. Either the trigger guard was slit and the trigger extended through and below the guard or the trigger was bent and extended so that it lay alongside of the guard where it was operable. One big (5½") miniature wheel lock pistol in the Metropolitan Museum collection has a conventional external side safety on the right hand side of the frame and the trigger extends through the guard.

One of the earliest European revolving handguns known to survive is a three barreled matchlock revolver now in the Palazzo Ducale collection in Venice. For a long time it was suspected of being a fake. It had two strikes against it. In the first place, if it was genuine, it would be the only European matchlock pistol in captivity, secondly,

the record keeping and museum custodial practices of the Palazzo Ducale had been a mite sloppy over the centuries between the time when it was transformed from a working arsenal to a museum. Some of the more famous pieces had disappeared and some known fakes had appeared as substitutions. In recent years, however, through the research into the old archives, scholar General A. Gaibi discovered that the pistol was indeed genuine. It first appeared in the inventory of the Palazzo Ducale when it was still an armory in 1548. It was probably made in Brescia around the year 1500. The miniature illustrated here was made by Agnoletto Walter from drawings, photographs and measurements made by Mr. Walter with the assistance of the present museum staff.

Continuing with Agnoletto's masterpieces we come to the da Vinci crossbow gun which I have described previously. It is known as the da Vinci gun because the lock with its big external "U" spring was designed by Leonardo da Vinci and sketched by him in about 1497. No one knows the exact date, as some nice little old lady took a pair of darning scissors and cut up hundreds of da Vinci's engineering drawings which were then pasted down in no particular order to make a scrap book. The drawings, therefore, have no precisely assignable date for each individual sketch, but scholars, basing either on stylistic sense or their calendar of da Vinci's datable activities, place the sketch at 1497 or earlier. If they are right, this is the first illustration or reference to a wheel lock gun. Da Vinci may even have been the inventor, though for years the invention was credited to Johann Kiefuss of Nuremberg and the date said to be 1515. In any event, there are two examples of this crossbow wheel lock gun in the Palazzo Ducale collection. Both have the characteristic outside lock and heavy "U" spring. On one the ancient cock is missing. On the other it still survives, looking exactly like the one in da Vinci's sketch (folio 56 v.) in the pasted up book of drawings now known as the Codex Atlanticus in the Ambrosiana Library in Milan. One of the two combination weapons is signed Renaldo da Visen Asolo and is dated 1562—about sixty-five years after the invention.

Author's da Vinci crossbow/wheel lock, made by Agnoletto; miniature took 2500 hours of work.



Toy brass guns found in London, circa 1590, in readily familiar forms of contemporary firearms.







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Back in the early days of the 1500's when handguns were first being made, there was great concern about their being used for the assassination of public figures. Various city governments in Switzerland and Northern Italy passed stringent rules about possession of firearms within city limits with special attention to concealed weapons, which in those days meant wheel locks. It was hard to conceal a matchlock with both ends of the match lit and smouldering. There were other problems for the gun owner of those days besides anti-gun legislation. The guns didn't always shoot when the trigger was pulled. Either the match would burn out, or the priming powder blew away on a windy day or got too damp to burn if it was hot and humid, let alone raining. The solution to this potentially embarrassing problem was to combine the early guns with some other type of weapon. Hence we have examples (in miniature) from Germany and Italian museums of matchlock war hammers, and wheel lock battle axes and maces.

The wheel lock, because of its complexity and number of parts—more than forty, compared with ten (including screws), on a percussion lock—has always attracted the attention of the miniaturist. Shown here are five fine examples of miniature wheel lock pistols in Harry Knode's collection. They are shown for comparison alongside of one of Harry's full sized 25½" long wheel lock pistols. The miniatures were made over a period of hundreds of years from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

In 1543, the Portugese first landed in the Japanese archipelago on the island of Tanegashima. They brought matchlock guns with them which the Japanese dubbed Tanegashima's after the island where they were first seen. The Japanese adopted the matchlock system without much change and built matchlock pistols and long guns until the arrival of Admiral Perry in the mid-19th century.

While the Japanese were still horsing around with Portugese matchlock horse-pistols, the Spanish had gone and invented a simpler and more reliable weapon, the demi battery, or miquelet. The Spanish lock, which first occurs during the reign of Philip II—before 1598—was manufactured in Madrid. As the word of its dependability spread, manufacturing was established in other Spanish cities. Barcelona, Eibar, and Ripoll became famous for their guns made for both Spanish and export trade. Soon the Spanish lock became the Mediterranean lock and was manufactured in Arabia, Southern Italy, the Balkans, and Turkey. The miniature illustrated here is the Ripoll type with an early butt and decorative shell covering of the cock-base axle and half cock bar. This shooting miniature, made in Spain in the 17th century, has its trigger offset from the guard. The blunderbuss barrel is both steel and brass.

One of the finest Boutet pistols in or out of a museum is this single flint lock pistol made on the special order of Napoleon for his brother Joseph, King of Spain. In chiselled bronze and sheet silver are worked eagles, panoplies of arms, Roman heads and, of course, the Spanish coat of

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1. Six shot revolver in caliber .230 Eley rimfire. Made in Belgium, 1873. 2. Six sub-sized derringers shown with a full size Nimschke engraved .41 cal. Colt Third Model. 3. These military miniatures average 5½" and include a Harpers Ferry, Springfield, and North & Cheney; from the Berger collection. 4. Cased Colt Dragon, measuring 6".

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arms. The matte black barrel is inlaid with 150 gold stars. Can you imagine trying to make a miniature out of this piece? Well, Billy Johnson did! The miniature and the original are both in the collection of Russell Aitken who specializes in the collection of beautifully designed and decorated firearms. The original and the miniature are both masterpieces, as you can see from the photo on page 37.

As Joe Kindig, Jr. has a virtual corner on the finest Kentucky rifles in the country, Harm Leonard, past president of the American Society of Arms Collectors had no choice but to persuade Billy Johnson to make a miniature of a J. Lowmaster masterpiece illustrated in Joe Kindig's book, "Thoughts on the Kentucky Rifle in Its Golden Age." Joe says of the original, "I consider this by far the most artistic Kentucky rifle of its period that I have ever seen. The mounts and inlays have over a hundred piercings in all!" The miniature, and the fine tiger-grained miniature pistol have the stamp lazy J and B combined standing for guess who. "JB" The original Lowmaster is unsigned. The miniature long rifle is unmatched as a piece of jewelry, but the pistol, while plainer, has a stock carved from a cured block of tiger maple which had perfect miniature graining. The odds against finding such a perfect piece of stock wood are almost astronomical.

The pair of pistols illustrated on page 38 brings up the question, "What is a miniature?" Only five inches long, with barrels one and three-eighths inches long, these tap action, over and under breech loading flint pistols are smaller than some of the scale models that I have described. They are not, however, scale models of a larger pair. They are very real muff or pocket pistols intended to be shot. The pair, capable of four shots between them, were made by August Francotte in 1845. They were made to be carried and used, and are complete with a .28 calibre round bullet mold. I even have a pocketful of cast bul-

lets made by a previous owner who must have shot the guns.

The year 1845 was very late for anyone to be making flintlocks, although I have seen an example of the flintlock Springfield model of 1840, dated 1842 in the West Point museum collection. Most guns of this period were made in percussion, which, after all, had been invented thirty years before. The N. P. Ames stamped "U. S. R. (for Revenue) 1843" belonged to Gerald Fox and is now in the collection of Harry Knode in Dallas. We used it in the photograph to show the scale of other U. S. Martials in Harry's collection. The miniatures are: an N. P. Ames, a Springfield model 1815, a North and Cheney, a Harpers Ferry, and an 1855 Springfield with a shoulder stock. All of the martials are exactly one-third scale.

In the Knode collection are six miniature derringers. Five of the six are half-scale cartridge guns scaled down from .41 caliber originals. The gun used for scale is a .41 cal. Nimschke engraved Colt. The five cartridge guns are in order; engraved Colt derringer, plain derringer with ivory grips, Southerner (Merrimac Arms, Newburyport, Mass.), Remington over and under and a Williamson (made by Moore in Brooklyn). The other derringer is a Philadelphia percussion. Three of these miniatures were made by model maker Ray Hutchens of Indianapolis. The Philadelphia derringer was made by Billy Johnson.

Harold Berger is a born collector. Still a young man who pilots his own steel-grey custom Ferrari and wins deep sea fishing tournaments, Harold has collected guns, armor, miniatures, and watches and automata. Harold also had, and still has, a gun collection although his interest has more and more come to focus on miniatures, and his miniature collection, built over a period of twenty years covers all periods and comes from all over the world. Among the many fine miniatures in his collection are practically all of the different Colts that Tom Weston





ever made. They include cased Patersons, Dragoons in three sizes, (only one illustrated). The revolvers are 1 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long up to 6 inches. These are Single Actions from a little over an inch long up to sub-caliber miniatures capable of shooting the 22 short black powder cartridge.

The next three guns are absolutely mint and perfect in every detail. They are all miniatures of the early U. S. martial pistols. The top pistol, complete with lock markings and barrel proofs is the Harpers Ferry. The middle gun, also completely marked and dated, is the 1818 U. S. Springfield flintlock pistol, and the third, looking very much like its French prototype, is the North and Cheney made in Berlin which is near Middletown, Connecticut and it is marked "North and Cheney, Berlin" on the base of the frame.

The largest miniatures in the Berger collection are the half scale Colts and the presentation model '66 Winchester. The cased presentation Winchester is gold plated with a full ivory stock. The barrel is richly blued, the frame is engraved and the stock carved with a sculptural Mexican eagle and snake design. Being exactly half scale of the .44 rim '66, the miniature would shoot a .22 long cartridge if anyone had dared to take it out of its case. The presentation plaque has Harold Berger's name on it and the name of the maker and the date. It is a modern miniature made in 1964. On the top of the barrel is very correct and complete stamping. The pair of single action Colts are cased together—one with ivory, the other with mother-of-pearl grips, both carved with the Mexican eagle. Barrels, cylinders and frames are all elaborately engraved.

A few years before the return of Porfirio Diaz to his second term of office as President of Mexico, some revolutionary Mexican general commissioned the making of three miniature military rifles. They were the types of weapons then in use by the Mexican army. The top one

illustrated is the Mexican model of the single shot bolt-action Mauser. There are no markings on the bayonet equipped rifle except for the metric numbers indicating sighting distances on the rear sights. The middle rifle is a trap door Springfield without a bayonet or bayonet lug. It is completely functional including elevating rear sights. The Springfield is marked "FABRICAS DE ARMAS/MEXICO 1881" on the lock plate, and has a Liberty Cap and initials—perhaps inspector's marks—on the barrel. The third gun with no markings on either the barrel or the lockplate is a military rolling block Remington with bayonet lug and a long brass hilted bayonet. These three guns are extremely well made and finished.

In Berger's collection are two automatics, in their original boxes, the smallest working automatics which were made and sold to be shot in earnest as defense weapons. The smaller, the Kolibri, is in a case with faded gold stamping on the silk liner in the lid. What you can read says: "Francois Pfanni/—ems Austriche" Cased with the miniature automatic is an original box for ammunition with two tiny center fire cartridges in it. The 2.7mm cartridges look like they had corroded primers and would probably be unsafe to shoot.

The large gun, the Liliput (not shown) is the smallest of a series of small automatics which were clearly inspired by the Browning. The Liliput was chambered for 4.25mm and 6.35. The Liliput had a bigger brother in 7.65 marked "Menz." The pistol is marked "Liliput Kal 4.25/Model 1925", and it has the German nitro proof mark of a "N" surmounted with a crown. It also has the initials "A. M.", the "M" possibly standing for Menz, the maker.

The last miniature in the shooting league, is a Belgian six shot revolver in a cigar case. It's a .22 with a bird's head grip, a folding trigger and no trigger guard. The cylinder and frame are nicked and engraved. In a ribbon running around the cylinder there is the legend:



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1. Half-scale cased presentation Winchester '66 and a pair of richly engraved Colt's Single Action revolvers. 2. The Kolibri, world's smallest working auto pistol, with several 2.7 mm center fire cartridges.



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"Rimfire pistol .230 Eley-Deposited 27 Nov. 1873" and the Liege proof "ELG" in a circle and the inspector's mark, a "L" under a crown.

With all miniatures, age is of secondary importance to the quality of the piece. Most miniatures are unsigned and undated, but if the maker who has the skill to make a fine miniature wanted to, there would be enough microscopic engraved documentation to stuff a horse. Some 19th century European makers signed their work. Other 18th century miniatures were the advertisements of custom gunsmiths, and carry the name of the atelier. Some few miniatures, very few, have a provenance. That is, they are known to have come from an inherited collection, and are known to have been in some royal family's possession for x number of years or centuries. This documentation comes to us usually in the form of auction sale

catalogs, which while not always honest or accurate, have to be given more credence than the word of an anxious salesman who got the piece hot off the boat from Tsar Nicholas II, personally.

I have a representative historical firearms collection, with a gun or two from most periods and at least one gun representing each type of ignition system. When the conversation is about the great locksmiths and stock-makers, I can lift out a miniature from under the plate glass on my drum table. Having the miniature to show is something like having a snapshot of the big one that got away.

Miniatures are even better than snapshots. Home movies and photo albums can get pretty boring to a stranger, but miniature firearms interest everyone. Kids and grown-ups alike want to see how they work and non-gun types (there are crazy people in this world who don't like guns!) are still interested in the fineness of the workmanship. I don't want to get into an argument with progressive educators who seek to avoid a reputation of the zip gun generation by taking away children's cap pistols. The boys and girls who collect miniature guns at today's prices have already lived long enough in this corrupt world to be beyond redemption.



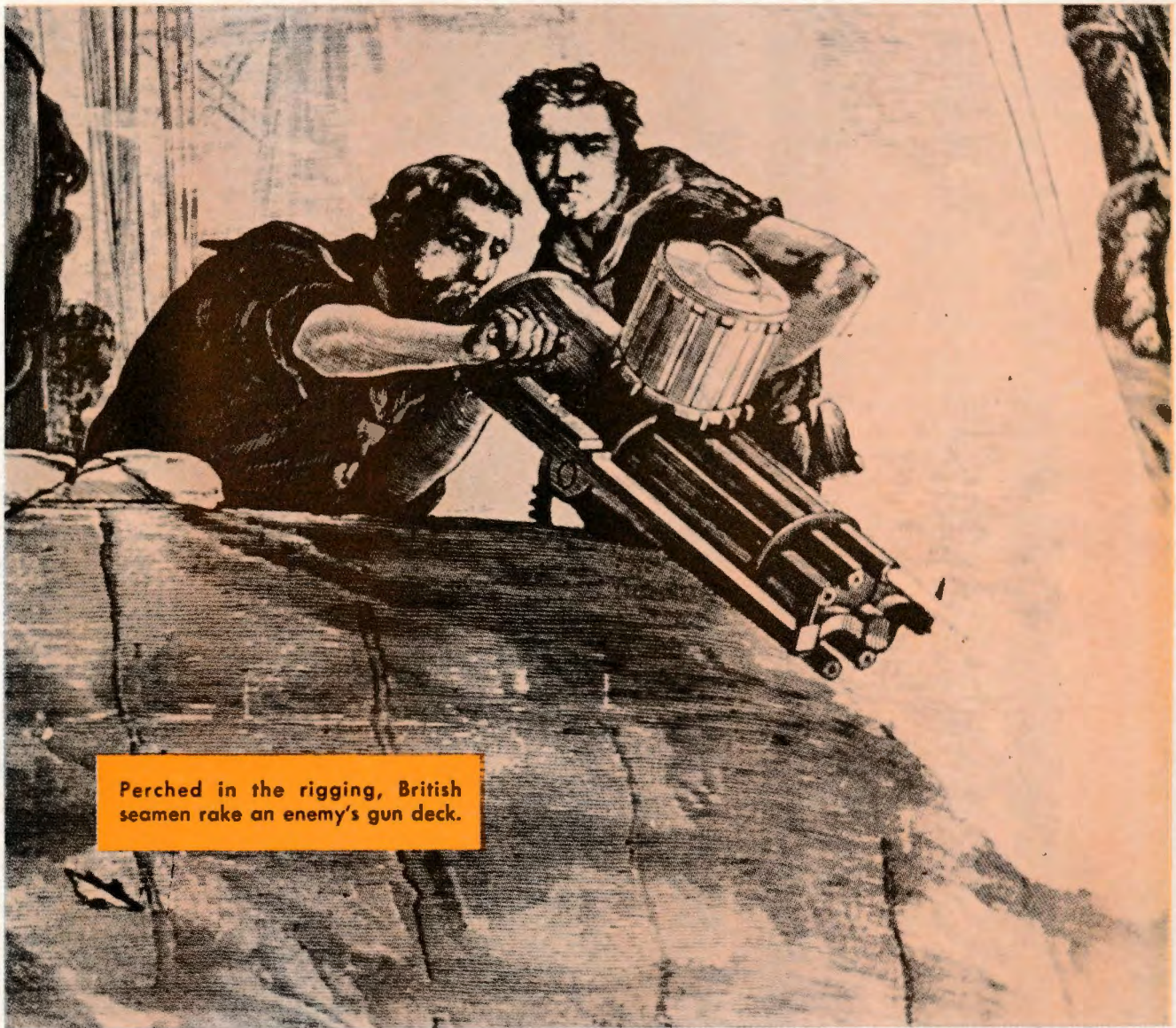
#### EDITOR'S NOTE

The above article was excerpted from more than 60 pages of manuscript copy submitted by Mr. Lindsay. Wielding the blue pencil hurt me deeply, but the condensation was necessary because of the limitations of a magazine. What hurt even more, was selecting these 15 color photos from a selection of more than 70 submitted with the article. Mr. Lindsay is considering publishing all of the story of miniatures, along with all the fantastic photos, in a book form. He should be encouraged toward this effort, for the complete story of military miniatures and miniature firearms is one that could best be told by the pen of Mr. Lindsay and the camera of Bruce Pendleton.

In condensing this article to fit the magazine's space restrictions, many fine miniatures were left out, and several collectors were slighted; again, with great reluctance by the editor, and not the author. All the more reason that a book on miniatures should be published.



# THE BRITISH AND THE Gatling Gun



Perched in the rigging, British seamen rake an enemy's gun deck.

By RICHARD P. MILLER

**M**R. MIDSHIPMAN LEWIS CADWALLADER COKER was a proud young man. Beside him, its carriage wheels lashed securely to the raft swinging across the lower Tugela River towards Zululand, was a beautifully polished, 10-barreled brass Gatling gun. It was a sparkling Sunday morning—January 11, 1879—and within a few days Mr. Coker hoped to test his chattering, flame-spewing weapon in real combat.

The crude raft ground against the opposite bank, and the 200-man Naval Brigade stood in enemy territory: the lands of Cetshwayo, king of the Zulu nation and commander of the most magnificent “uncivilized” infantry the world has ever seen.

The British had mounted a three-pronged invasion of Zululand mainly because of friction between thousands of European settlers pouring into native domains, and the strong, centralized Zulu government. It was a variation on the American theme of settlers vs. Indians, with many similar incidents. Headstrong generals, crafty politicians, noble but doomed natives—all the charac-



## GATLING GUN

ters matched. And there was one more similarity. Just as George Armstrong Custer might have stood off the Sioux at the Little Big Horn three years earlier, in 1876, so the British might have avoided total disaster in the green hills of Zululand, with the right guns—Gatling guns.

Coker's column was a flanking division. The main British force, without Gatling guns, marched into central Zululand and met its crimson fate on January 22, in the shadow of a crag called Isandhlwana. Custer's indiscretion cost 225 lives, including his own. The toll at Isandhlwana was more than 1,400 men, overwhelmed by thousands of plumed, chanting Zulu warriors.

When the other columns received the news, Midshipman Coker suddenly found himself the center of attention in his division. Both bluejackets and redcoated Tommies had seen the Gat-

ling at work in minor clashes with the Zulus, and now those officers who had not been provided with the new weapon hurriedly sent in requests for them.

Actually, the British had been studying the Gatling gun and its uses for nine years, and had already learned to be fairly flexible in their tactics with it. Everyone remembered reports of the French *Mitrailleuse* machine guns in the Franco-Prussian War, with a battle range of about 400 yards, which had been placed back with the artillery because they *looked* like artillery. The Prussians had merrily knocked them off with their Krupp field guns from 4,000 yards. A few wiser French officers used the machine guns as infantry weapons, and got excellent results.

Right after the American Civil War, Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling, the inventor, began cultivating contract possibilities with the British government. His

original revolving machine gun was introduced in 1862, and was greatly improved in the Model of 1865. He gave the British first crack at field-testing his newest Gatling, the Model of 1871, and the War Office conducted trials of prototype models in the late summer of 1870. The British tested three calibers—.42, .65 and one-inch—at various ranges and against competing machine guns, field artillery pieces, and infantry fire. The Gatling's main rival in the trials, held at Shoeburyness, England, was the *Mitrailleuse*, a 25-barreled contraption which was loaded with all 25 rounds at a time, via a block magazine.

It outshot the Gatling in simple fire at fixed targets and the shorter ranges, but the Gatling walked away when it came to more realistic tests such as sweeping an area of ground covered by scattered, man-sized targets. The doctor's pet went on to outscore both the artillery and companies of marksmen armed with Martini-Henry and Snider rifles. The testing board declared the Gatling gun "the best adapted to meet all military requirements."

In 1873, trouble occurred between the British and the Ashanti kingdom over suppression of slavery along the African Gold Coast (present-day Ghana). London rushed two Gatling guns and 20,000 rounds of ammunition to West Africa. The military pundits all hoped to see the new weapon do its stuff against the particularly nasty tribesmen of King Kofi Karikari, whom the British dubbed "King Koffee," a lover of such diversions as colorful human sacrifices.

But the Army never got a chance to try out the Gatling seriously. When a delegation of Ashanti heralds arrived at the British camp to put out feelers of the redcoats' strength, they were treated to a few bursts from the machine gun and watched, open-mouthed, as the bullets splashed up the holy Prah River in a shimmering fountain a third of a mile away. That night, one of the envoys went into his tent and blew his brains out, after explaining that the Ashanti had little chance against such miraculous weaponry. The British marched into Kumasi, the capital, meeting little resistance, burned the city and thus ended the Ashanti War.

In the first few years of British experience with the Gatling gun, it was almost exclusively operated by landing parties from the Royal Navy. Curiously, it was the (Continued on page 52)



In Alexandria, Egypt in 1882, British bluejackets cleared the streets of angry mobs by sending bursts of Gatling gun fire over their surprised heads.



# A GENTLEMAN'S GUN

## Gun OF THE MONTH



By A. B. KAZAN

When I first saw this cased .22 Hi-Power Savage 99, I realized it was a relic of a small slice of American hunting history. It was built for the hunter who went to the Big Woods on the train. He might check his baggage through, but he carried his rifle neatly cased and tucked under the seat.

The hard road and the Model T finished off this phase of the hunting habit, but while it lasted it must have been fun. Those were the days when the .250-3000 and the .22 Imp (this .228" rimmed cartridge has had a lot of names) were the red-hot, kill-anything performers, and the .270 wasn't even on the drawing



A relic of the past, this cased Savage with its two interchangeable barrels accompanied the gentleman hunter as he traveled by rail into the Big Woods.

boards. No one heard yet that take-down rifles were only good for boat anchors.

There are two barrels, of course, with numbers matching. The second is a .410 bore single-shot auxiliary. The idea was first to shoot your moose—they did shoot moose with the .22 Savage and even bigger game—and then while away the afternoons, until the sun got over the yardarm, with strolls after the odd grouse or rabbit. It was real living.

This rifle remained in service for some time after such happy idylls disappeared. Somebody rigged up a Weaver 29S on a serviceable home-made side mount, held down with two rugged cap-screws. And it still will shoot.

In fact, it will group the hot (70 gr. bullet at about 2,700 fps) Dominion loads available here at about 1½" for five shots at 100 yards from the bench. Further, it will throw the same ammo under 4" for 5 shots with the rifle taken down completely and the scope removed between each shot. That may not sound like much, but try it sometime with any lightweight hunting rifle. You ought to be able to beat it, but not by enough so any game would notice it.

The case is built specifically for this rifle and its auxiliary tube. It offers space for cleaning gear, scope, ammo, and even a few Marble's auxiliary cartridges for use if one got into grouse country with the .410 barrel back at camp. The case is black, in some very sturdy imitation of grained leather. The interior is blue plush, and the details are clear in the photos.

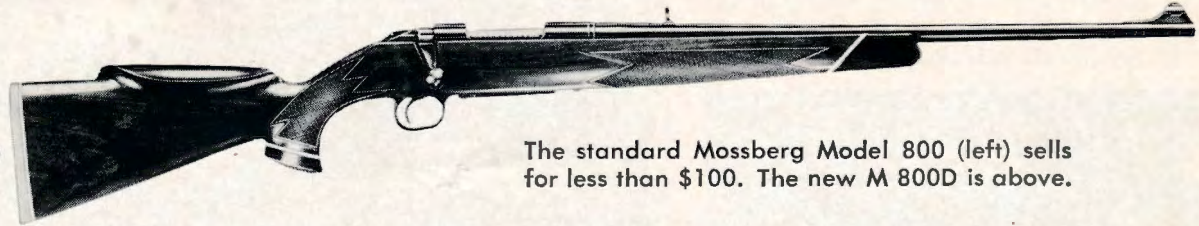
All in all, the cased Savage is a rather gentlemanly firearm.





# The Mossberg Rifle

*Over the years Mossberg has developed some of the finest rifles... their new 800 is no exception*



The standard Mossberg Model 800 (left) sells for less than \$100. The new M 800D is above.



*Charles Askins*

By CHARLES ASKINS

There are now four versions of the new Mossberg Model 800 rifle. One of these is the standard with iron sights; the second is like the first except it has a slick barrel for scope sights. The third is a varmint rifle with a fine bullgun barrel, and the fourth is the deluxe offering with a handsome walnut stock, and rollover Monte Carlo comb. (Just announced is a new M-800 with full length Mannlicher stock.—Ed.)

This new rifle has a brand new action; it follows the Mauser turning-bolt pattern but it is an improvement over any Mauser ever made. Where the older gun has only three locking lugs the new M800 has six. These are arranged in pairs at 120° intervals about the front end of the bolt. The bolt body measures three-quarters of an inch, and the lugs have the same diameter. This accounts for the smaller re-

cesses in the receiver ring which the lugs lock. It also leaves more metal in the receiver ring and thus makes for a stronger action.

The action is the short type. It is made for the .308 family of cartridges, and will take such loads as the .308 Win., the .243 Win., and the .22-250. Currently it is chambered for these loadings. If the owner wanted he could have it rebarreled for the .358 Win. which is also of this family. Because of its shortness the bolt has a short travel and is remarkably free from cramping. It also provides a very rigid receiver. The bolt is grooved to relieve stickiness and moves very freely.

Because of the arrangement of the six locking lugs the bolt has a lift of only 68 degrees. Most bolt action rifles have a lift of 90 degrees. This is a decided advantage and makes faster



follower shots possible when hunting. The head of the bolt is deeply counter-bored. This is a safety factor and a good one, it provides good support for the head of the case, surrounding it with a wall of metal. In the face of the bolt head is a spring-loaded ejector and a small hook-type extractor, spring activated. Just behind the lugs is a gas port to vent off gases in case of a punctured primer. At the tail-end of the bolt is a cap or shroud. This is neatly streamlined and contributes to the good looks of the action. This bolt cap is solidly done and any gases which might follow through the bolt in case of a primer puncture cannot reach the shooter's eye.

A part of this bolt cap carries the safety. This is thumb-activated and is in a most convenient location, so situated, that it can be used by either a right-hander or southpaw. There is an extension on the safety which projects to the right a fraction of an inch, and this is to make it more convenient when a scope is mounted.

The safety only locks the trigger mechanism. It does not lock the bolt. When shoved forward for firing it exposes a red dot located on the bolt sleeve.

The rifle cocks on the opening movement of the bolt. This bolt moves upward out of a recess in the receiver which in effect acts as a seventh locking lug, or safety lug. On this preliminary movement of the bolt the cocking cam engages a shoulder on the rear of the firing pin assembly and this brings the striker to full cock. The firing pin assembly is permanently assembled, the striker and the pin itself. The whole is driven by a coiled spring. Lock time is quite fast due to the shortness of travel of the striker. This is about three-eighths of an inch.

The trigger guard and the trigger housing are one-piece. The housing contains the trigger, sear, and other parts. There are no adjustments for pull. Not all pulls are good. Frequently you will strike a pull that is creepy. This should be corrected, especially on the deluxe model and the varmint model. The sear rides a groove in the bolt; it keeps the bolt from over-rotating as it is pulled to the rear, and it also serves as a bolt stop. By pulling the trigger the bolt can be withdrawn from the receiver.

The barrel on all the 800's except the varmint model is 22 inches. The bullgun version has a 24 inch tube. These barrels are button rifled with eight lands

and eight grooves. On the .308 the grooves have a depth of .004", on the .243 these are .003". Barrels are chrome-molybdenum as is the receiver and bolt body. The bolt sleeve and rear of the striker assembly are investment castings. The magazine including the hinged floorplate is a steel die stamping.

The barrel is equipped with a recoil lug. This bears on the recoil shoulder in the stock. There are two guard screws both of which fasten into the receiver. The barrel is free-floating from a point about four inches in front of the juncture of barrel and receiver ring.

The stock is of a good grade of American walnut. It has a Monte Carlo comb and a cheekpiece. On the deluxe model this comb is the rollover type for a righthander. There is no provision for the lefthander who might want to possess the M800 in the fancy-dan

version. This is strange, for Mossberg back in the 1930s made a fine .22 bolt action target rifle with a lefthand bolt. Why they should ignore this contingent with their new center-fire highpower is difficult to understand.

There is a pistol grip with a cap and the buttplate has a white line spacer as does the pistol grip. There is both checkering and carving at the pistol grip and on the forestock. The checkering is the impressed kind. This carving has been left off the deluxe model and the varmint rifle.

The stock on the standard model is too thin and does not feel comfortable. On the deluxe and the varmint stocks this is not true at all. Both feel quite comfortable and both have good design and pleasing lines.

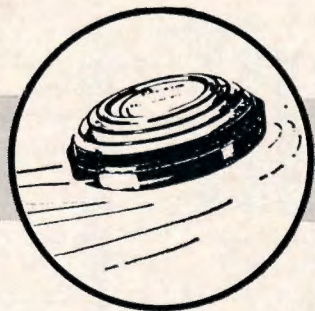
The stock dimensions are; length of pull 14", drop at comb 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ ", drop at Monte Carlo 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ ", drop at heel 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ ".

*(Continued on page 70)*



Equipped with the Lyman receiver sight, for which it is tapped and drilled, the Model 800 was a fast gun for brush country whitetails.





# PULL!

By DICK MILLER

SOME SOUL-SEARCHING on the part of North American skeet shooters seems to be indicated in the wake of the 1968 Olympics. Our International trapgunners have fared rather well on the world scene, with Yank Ken Jones now holding the world record on championship targets, with his 298x300 fired at Weisbaden, Germany in 1966. Tom Garrigus of the USA garnered a silver medal at Mexico City by defeating Kurt Czeka of East Germany in a shoot-off (25-25) after both had broken 196 of the 200 Olympic targets. But, all is not so serene on the skeet scene. The two United States skeetgunners placed 16th and 19th, while two excellent Canadians finished 15th and 37th.

Because he says it so well, and because I agree with him, I quote from Bob Rodale's own account of the shooting events at Mexico City, in the December, 1968 issue of *Skeet Shooting Review*, official magazine of the National Skeet Shooting Association. Rodale concludes an interesting account of the Olympic games with these words:

"The tough question remaining is how and when the United States can regain the top position we once held in International skeet. Chet Crites won the International skeet world's championship in 1952, and Ken Pendergrass won a medal in 1962. Since then our teams have been good at times, but individuals have failed to break through to the top ranks of medal winners. U. S. skeet shooters are no longer even considered serious competition by the Russians, Germans, or Italians. We were also beaten by both Olympic entries from Greece and Chile, and by a shooter from Britain, Canada, Peru, Denmark, Rumania, and Spain. And we were trounced convincingly by a Mexican girl in her early twenties.

"The only way America will rise again on world-wide skeet fields is for our best young shooters to start the long process of developing into tough low-gun competitors. I can think of only six young Americans who are training now at skeet with Munich in

mind. That's not nearly enough."

Another reason why I have chosen to include Bob Rodale's challenging remarks in this column is because I am aware that the *Skeet Shooting Review* is read almost exclusively by the tournament skeet gunners of this Continent. By throwing down his gauntlet in challenge here, we broaden the reader base. And, it occurs to me that this needed cadre of new, young, tough low-gun competitors might come even more easily from shooters who have not developed any techniques from the significantly different North American version of a game that originated on these shores, and which was exported to those nations who now hold our competitors in such low esteem.

Without delving deeply into the rules of skeet either domestic or International, I insert here an explanation to the casual reader that in the United States and Canada, a shooter may place the gun butt against his or her shoulder, in the ready-to-shoot position, before calling for the target, which will appear instantly on the shooter's command. The International version of skeet, fired in all such games as the ISU, Olympics, Pan American, Asian, etc., requires that the gun butt be held in the low position, against the hip when the target is called for, and, in addition, the target does not emerge at once, but may appear at any interval under three seconds (which can seem an eternity to the shooter who is all "cocked and primed" to shoot). Veteran clay target followers will recall that these rules are roughly similar to those used here in skeet during its early years. So, if there are readers young or old, who ask what they might do for their country, here is a significant opportunity. Gold, silver, and bronze medals in International skeet count as heavily in point totals and in prestige as do medals in all other sports.

As propos of the foregoing subject matter, I have just received from the NRA a new pamphlet called *NRA International Championships and*

*Preliminary Tryout Information*. The introduction to this pamphlet reminds shooters that preliminary tryouts are held annually for invitation to the final tryouts for the U. S. Shooting Team that will participate in International World Championships, Olympics, or Pan American Games. A typical four year cycle consists of the Olympic Games (now past) followed the next year by an ISU Moving Target World Championship, then by the ISU World Championships on all guns (ISU-International Shooting Union) and on the last year of the series by the Pan American Games and an ISU Moving Target World Championship. The big event for 1969 will be the ISU World Championships in Madrid, Spain. Some of the other world spots to which your shotgun (or rifle/pistol) can win you a ticket are the Pan-American Games in 1971 at Cali, Columbia, and also in 1971 the Moving Target Championships at Tokyo, Japan. Asian Games are tentatively scheduled for Korea in 1970. Even closer to home will be the 1970 World Championships to be hosted by the United States in Phoenix, Arizona. General Richard Spear's Winchester Public Shooting Center near Phoenix will host the skeet and trap events.

In this connection, there is news for the trap shooter as well as for the skeet gunner. The NRA will install four of the conventional 15-trap pits of the type used in Europe and most of the rest of the world, and which are still required for International trap championships, but in addition will add to the Phoenix facility some of the NRA Modified single-trap layouts so that shooters may become accustomed to both games.

**All shooters and gun clubs should take note** that all final results and application for consideration for invitation to the Final Tryouts (for 1969) must be in NRA Headquarters no later than May 31, 1969. Information on all aspects of Preliminary and Final Tryouts, as well as the NRA International Championships and applications for NRA sanctioned tryouts for all events should be requested from the Competitions, Training, and Facilities Division, National Rifle Association of America (this applies to shotgun as well as rifle and pistol), 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20036.

And, here are some concrete goals for International skeet and trap aspirants. Qualifying scores to be used in selecting the shooters from Preliminary Tryouts are: International skeet, 180x200, Clay Pigeon (trap) 170x200. As a minimum, the top ten percent of the shooters who make qualifying scores will be invited to attend Final

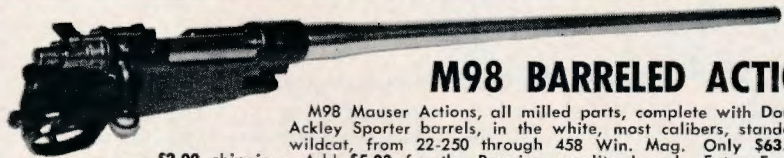


Tryouts. The foregoing information should provide enough of a challenge to red-blooded and confident Yanks and Canadians so that our respective countries can write a new history of the sport shooting games from 1969 forward. But, harking back to Bob Rodale's remarks, six young Americans can hardly expect to get the job done, nor perhaps even sixty. What we need, and what is up at least in part to you, the reader, is not six or sixty, but six hundred or even six thousand fine shooters tuning up for a chance to stand on the winner's platform when either the Stars and Stripes or the Maple Leaf is flown. In effect, this combines what your country can do for you with what you can do for your country.

In closing, I reiterate that I have deliberately chosen to broaden this appeal for greater support and participation in the game of International skeet so that it may reach many of GUNS readers who are not now, nor have been clay target gunners. If you, or someone you know, has normal coordination, eyesight, and reasonable physical stamina, it is not beyond the realm of either probability or possibility that you or your protege may treasure a medal won in the service of your country, with the added advantage that it was gained in a shooting match where your opponents do not shoot back. As I indicated earlier, it may be more feasible to take a shooter who has nothing to unlearn from having competed in our domestic shooting games than it will be to ask that a tournament shooter unlearn much of what has served him while winning in North America.

Bob Rodale noticed in Mexico City that U. S. and Canadian gunners instinctively cheeked their gunstocks when firing at the target, while the hot and winning Europeans blazed away as soon as the comb touched their cheek. I can recall from shooting delayed skeet targets in the forties and fifties that it was much easier to make the transition from delayed to instant targets than it has been to reverse the process. I'm also a relic of the skeet days which called for the gun butt visible below the elbow when calling for the target, and confess that I don't feel comfortable (and certainly not in championship form) when I set the butt on my shoulder before calling for my target. I just don't feel free and loose, and it's a foregone conclusion that most champions are free and loose when they win.

Once more, fame (if not fortune) beckons, and the field is wide open. What better odds can one ask?



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## BRITISH AND THE GATLING GUN

(Continued from page 46)

Navy which most often lit the fires under the swivel chairs at the War Office and Admiralty, and stumped for new weapons. The bluejackets had already agitated for the Gardner machine gun, another hand-cranked arm, believing in its usefulness for raking enemy decks from a position in the maintop. In 1877, their point was proved in an encounter between two British warships and a renegade Peruvian ironclad. Gatling gun fire from the crow's-nest of one of the Britishers mowed down the gunners of the ironclad before the battle could really get started.

The British ordered most of their Gatling guns in the standard service caliber, .577-450. This saved headaches at the supply depots, but the early cartridges of that caliber were of thinly rolled brass, and the Gat-

ling's extractors tended to tear the heads off of expended cases, leaving the thin body stuck firmly inside the chamber. By the late 1870's, however, units which had the Gatling gun also had drawn-brass cartridges which overcame the problem.

When the Zulu War broke out, the Army had trained Gatling crews ready to fight beside the Royal Navy for the first time. The gun's first reasonably large-scale trial in British hands came at the relief of Eshowe, a hamlet deep inside Zululand, when a battery helped to break an onrush of Cetshwayo's finest troops. In Zululand, the guns were still regarded by a few commanders as artillery items, and their fire was often co-ordinated with shell-bursts. This gave rise to a belief among the Zulus that the bursting shells from the field guns contained magic British soldiers, who materialized out of the smoke to shoot

their opponents. Zulus could be seen charging through drifting clouds of smoke from exploded shells and jabbing their spears into the fumes before the redcoats could appear.

By July, 1879, the Zulu generals realized that not even their men's fierce spirit could make any headway against the thousands of .45 caliber slugs sprayed from the Gatling batteries. There was one more battle, at Ulundi—Cetshwayo's headquarters—but the Zulu *impis* who attacked there knew they had already lost the war. Still, Ulundi did no harm to Britain's opinion of the American Gatling gun. (Mr. Midshipman Coker was not at Ulundi, nor did he receive his Zulu War service medal; he was dead of fever, at age 19. He'd insisted on sleeping outside the tents each night, beside his beloved Gatling gun.)



Three years later and almost exactly 4,000 miles straight north from Ulundi, the Gatling gun spoke in the streets of Alexandria, Egypt, and Britain added to her Empire again. British forces had been called in to support the Khedive of Egypt against a nationalistic revolt in the army. A Royal Navy squadron shelled fortifications at Alexandria and landed a small force to take over the city.

Again, the bluejackets manned the Gatling guns, and with a few timely bursts over the heads of a threatening crowd of Egyptians they cleared the streets and imposed order. The rebellious Egyptian army, encamped near Alexandria, was reportedly so impressed by this brief display of firepower that they failed to counterattack at once, thus allowing the British to make good their occupation of the city. Soon, a column under Sir Garnet Wolseley was advancing up the Nile

GUNS • APRIL 1969



behind an armored train that carried both Gardner and Gatling machine guns.

On September 13, 1882, Wolseley's army attacked nationalist positions at Tel-el-Kebir, about 60 miles from Cairo. Six Gatling guns, manned by 30 Royal Navy tars, were deployed to clear the way. The Army stood by while the machine guns opened up, stitching a web of death across the embrasures of the rough Egyptian parapet. Then bluejackets and red-coats dashed across the walls to find the enemy demoralized and already three-quarters beaten. The British drove on to occupy Cairo, and ended up as masters of Egypt; Wolseley received a gift of 30,000 pounds sterling from the British government, and was made Baron Wolseley of Cairo. Thereafter, he displayed a certain warm spot in his heart for machine guns.

In 1885, a relief expedition set out from Cairo for the Sudan to rescue General Charles Gordon, besieged at Khartoum by the Mahdi. In a battle at El Teb, the British ran up against a new twist in fighting with the Gatling gun—the foes had Gatlings, too. Later, at Abu Klea, the Mahdist "Fuzzy-wuzzies" broke a British square, but a battery of Gatlings helped close the


gap again and prevent a Custer-style massacre. The Gatlings kept pumping while their rivals, a battery of Gardner guns, jammed and were out of the action. The expedition reached Khartoum in late January, 1885, two days after the city had fallen. Gordon was dead.

The British public was so enraged by the Gladston government's ineptitude over the rescue of Gordon that a new slate was voted in. And in the War Office, cold eyes were cast on all of the arms in the relief column. The authorities began to look for a wholly automatic machine gun.

Various tricks for making the Gatling gun a more self-operating arm had been proposed, but the best candidate for replacing the hodge-podge of machine guns then in use was a gun designed by Hiram Maxim, another American. In 1898, the British erased the Mahdist army and reconquered the Sudan using Maxim machine guns. A few years of glory still lay ahead for the Gatling, on other battlefields including San Juan Hill, but Maxims gradually replaced virtually all of the Gatling guns in British service, just as the .303 round replaced the .577-.450 cartridge.

Still, for years after the Battle of

Omdurman in 1898, in isolated posts where the Union Jack waved, the Gatling gun was to be found. During the Boxer Uprising in China, a New York machinery installer named Charles McIntosh found himself and a few other "foreign devils" surrounded in Tien-Tsin, about 90 miles from Peking. Firing Lee-Metford rifles at the Chinese who were closing in on them, they cut their way to the British compound, climbed to the roof of Gordon Hall—named after Charles Gordon—and resolved to die like men. McIntosh, looking around for anything to build the parapets higher, found a bulky, tarpaulin-wrapped object in a corner.

Weeks later, when a relief column finally got through to Tien-Tsin, they heard staccato gunfire from Gordon Hall. Manned by McIntosh and his exhausted comrades, a 10-barreled British Gatling gun was still doing its duty. 

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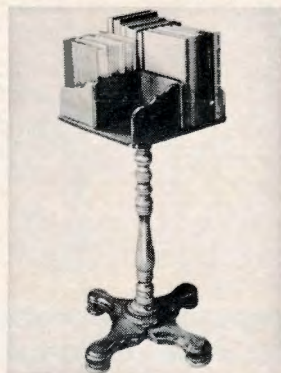


THE NEW 1969 Weaver-Scope catalog that has just come off the presses is "must" reading for shooting enthusiasts. The colorful new 48-page catalog has complete specifications and full-color illustrations of all Weaver-Scopes and Mounts, including the all-new 4x to 12x Model V12. It also contains valuable information to help hunters choose the best magnification for various types of shooting, and



up-to-date material on reticles and adjustments. Two pages are devoted to a trajectory chart showing the rise and drop of all standard commercial ammunition; another page contains an illustrated six-step method of zeroing any rifle accurately, using a minimum of time and ammunition. The Weaver-Scope catalog is free. It can be obtained from W. R. Weaver Company, Dept. 58, El Paso, Texas 79915.

A CLEVER NEW design and graceful styling make the Swivel Bookstand right for den, bedroom or by the easy chair wherever it might be. The Swivel Bookstand holds your current reading and reference books within easy reach of your chair or desk and the swivel feature brings your favor-



ite book within reach in an instant. Hand crafted in pine with a birch center leg, the Swivel Bookstand comes in honey tone, maple, antique pine or walnut finish. Do-it-yourself for just \$13.25; or receive it completely finished for \$19.50 (add 65¢ for postage). From: Yield House, North Conway, New Hampshire.

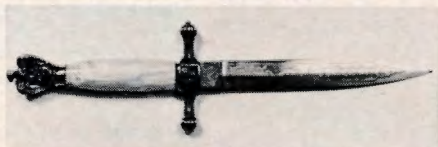
# SHOPPING WITH Guns

A NEW BOOK, entitled "Single Shot Rifles and Actions" by Frank de Haas and edited by John Amber, provides a comprehensive analysis of over 55 significant single shot rifles and actions. With each, mechanical details are thoroughly explored with photographs and scale sectional drawings, together with a biography of the in-



ventor, history of development, pertinent dates, variations and strong and weak design and construction points. When appropriate, gunsmithing suggestions are included. This is definitely a book to be included in your arms library. Now at your local sports or book dealer, or \$7.95 ppd. from: Gun Digest Association, Dept. G, 4540 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. 60624.

COLLECTORS and hobbyists will want to find out more about the "German Navy Design Dagger." This interesting new dagger has a six inch engraved (gilden) blade, brass mountings including an eagle end cap



and finger guard, and a handle of artificial pearl. A leather sheath with metal end cap is included in the price. Shipped prepaid at \$6.75 from: The Connell Co., Dept. G, R.R. #6, Box 123, Logansport, Indiana 46947.

L A DISTRIBUTORS now has ready for shipment the Magnum version of the famous Shikar Rifle. At first it will be available in 7 mm magnum and .300 Winchester Magnum. It features a "beefed-up" version of the famous Voere Shikar action design. The ordnance steel barrel is precision rifled to assure the shooter of accuracy with every shot. The custom Monte-Carlo stock is made from selected walnut with a rosewood forend and



grip cap, complete with studs for detachable sling swivels. Each gun is tastefully hand checkered in a popular basket weave pattern. The weight of the magnum model runs approximately 7 lbs. without sights. Price of the new magnum model is \$259.95. Each gun is drilled and tapped for standard Redfield scope bases. For further information write to L A Distributors, 4 Centre Market Place, New York, New York 10013.

MOST FIRING PINS are broken by dry firing, but with Richland's new "Snap Caps" inserted in the barrel a shooter can test the firing pin and ejectors without fear of damage. With Snap Caps the firing pin strikes a cushioned nylon blank that is under



adjustable spring tension. Richland Snap Caps are precision machined from an aluminum alloy, are priced just under \$2.00 and are available in 12 and 20 gauge. Write: Richland Arms Co., 300 W. Adrian, Blissfield, Mich. 49228.



# SHOPPING WITH Guns

**FINALLY AVAILABLE . . .** a genuine wood cheek piece! Here it is—from the Roberts gunstock people in California—the Convert-a-Stock cheek piece—carved from hand-selected, naturally-seasoned walnut, maple, and myrtle woods. Ideal for the shooter who wants to convert his



stock to scope or trap shooting with a handsome, permanent, genuine wood cheek piece. Each conversion kit contains a contoured cheek piece, instructions, and complete installing materials. Retail at \$7.50. May be ordered direct from Roberts Wood Products, Post Office Box 692, Marysville, California 95901.

**NEW FROM CLERKE . . .** zero cant "level" front sight. True elevation and windage values are obtained only if your sight is perfectly horizontal.



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Cant Level Front Sight through the use of a horizontal split level visible during sighting and shooting. With this new front sight, the cant can always be seen. Aperture discs .730" in diameter may be changed with shooting conditions. They come as a set of five with holes 0.070", 0.085", 0.095", 0.100" and 0.120" as standard. These precision apertures are inserted longitudinally, thus eliminating errors which otherwise could result from top insertion. Sight is of black anodized hard aluminum for lightness and rugged use. Mounts easily with the standard dovetail on front sight block. Zero Cant "Level" Front Sight, including a set of 5 apertures is only \$19.95. Write: Clerke Technicorp, 2054 Broadway Ave., Santa Monica, California 90404.

**NEW LINE OF** standard scopes, Universal Firearms Corp., of Hialeah, Florida, have announced a new line of Standard Riflescopes to be introduced for 1969. The scopes are available in 17 different models with fixed magnification from 2.5 to 10 power and zoom action scopes from 1.5 to 9 power. This new line of scopes is watertight to protect inner lens from moisture and nitrogen filled to prevent fogging. Sight systems include both crosshair



and post reticle. All scopes have the Universal Bi-Axis micromatic adjustment for scientific alignment. This line of scopes has been designed to fit small, rim fire 22's up to high-powered big game rifles. Prices range from \$7.95 to \$37.95. Universal also manufactures a complete line of bases, mounts and rings to fit all popular rifles. Literature is available from Universal Firearms Corp., 3746 E. 10th Court, Hialeah, Fla. 33103.

**NOW YOU CAN ENJOY** positive protection against the cold while hunting, fishing, or working out of doors. Famous Alaska's washable 100% prime virgin northern goose down insulated underwear gives you comfort in mild to bitter sub-zero temperatures. It holds in warmth . . . keeps out cold as no other insulation will. Goose down is practically weightless, always stays soft, fluffy, never bunches or feels bulky. The outer fabric and lining are tightly



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**GREATER HUNTING SAFETY** due to the maximum visibility of fluorescent blaze orange is a proven fact. With your safety in mind the 10-X Manufacturing Co. of Des Moines has announced their field-proven Upland Game Coat and Upland Game Vest are now available in official fluorescent blaze orange in a tough, yet soft and quiet fabric. Both advanced design garments are the same except for a collar and sleeves on the coat. Thus both have short length to keep game weight high for easier walking and climbing, and so it doesn't bump the hunter from behind with each step or catch on fences. Both garments have front and rear game pocket opening. Additional features are a bi-swing back, large roomy pockets with shell loops and protective pocket flaps, blood proof game pocket that zips open and top grain butt pads. For more information write 10-X Manufacturing Co., 100 S.W. Thrid Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.



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## PAT GARRETT

(Continued from page 23)

Colt's Lightning Model, probably .41 caliber, a model and a caliber both lacking Southwestern popularity at that time.

Actually, many students of Kidiana have questioned whether Billy had any gun at all that night. But as those students and all others interested in Western Americana well know, let there be even a rumor about a gun connected with a famous name and that identical gun will turn up somewhere, with backers to defend its authenticity. So there are several "Billy the Kid guns," including the one he carried that night in Pete Maxwell's room. As some wag said about it, "It must be Billy's gun; it has his name on it!" It has a serial number, too; one that dates it as having been made and issued from the factory in 1886, five years after Billy's the Kid's alleged demise.

Garrett attached to this report an English translation of part of the report (written in Spanish) of the coroners jury convened the following day. The original of that verdict disappeared, and for more than 50 years its whereabouts was unknown. Even its existence was doubted. But it was found, in the early 1930's, among old land records in the basement of the State Capitol building in Sante Fe. (See page 23)

The disappearance of the jury report inspired other questions: Had an inquest ever been held? If so, by whom, and what were its findings?

Finally, the jury report itself, when found, brought almost as much additional confusion as it brought enlightenment. July 14th had been accepted as the date on which the events happened. Garrett said in his report that he and his deputies "arrived just below Fort Sumner, on Wednesday, the 13th," that they "entered the fort (i.e., Fort Sumner) about midnight." Garrett's later statements that Billy was killed July 14th were accepted as meaning that the shooting occurred just after midnight, early in the morning of the 14th, and that the inquest (if one were held) was held that same day. . . . But Maxwell testified, as quoted by the jury, that "Garrett came in my room at about midnight the fourteenth (14th) of July;" and the jury's report itself is dated "This 15th day of July, 1881."

These seeming discrepancies and others, minor enough in themselves, provided fuel for smoldering fires of

prejudice still smoking from "The War" and, in place of "the gratitude of the whole community" and the compensation recommended by the jury, reaction in the Territory was almost equally divided between censure and praise. As for compensation, although the Territory (via Governor Wallace) had placed a reward of \$500 on Billy's head, the Territorial authorities now seized upon a technicality in the wording of that offer to resist Garrett's claim for payment, and it was not until February, 1882, by means of a special act of the Legislature, that payment was made. These facts are mentioned here, not to discredit Garrett but to explain, in part, the storms of controversy that have resulted, and to explain, too, the beginnings of the bitterness and sense of personal injustice that seems to have darkened Garrett's later years.

In 1882, Garrett ran for membership in the Territorial Council as a representative of Lincoln County. He was defeated.

In 1884, Garrett was commissioned by Governor John Ireland of Texas



as a member of the Frontier Forces of Texas, a group organized to combat cattle rustling on the Texas-New Mexico border. But the Frontier Forces were soon disbanded, and Garrett, desperate for income to support his family, returned to ranching, first in Texas, later (in 1887) in New Mexico Territory, near Roswell.

In 1889, when Chavez County was carved out of old Lincoln County, Garrett ran for Sheriff of the new county. Again, he was defeated. These were bad times for Garrett. Drinking too much, gambling too much, missing the acclaim he had enjoyed briefly as the killer of the Southwest's most publicized outlaw, increasingly bitter at New Mexico's failure to acknowledge, politically, the appreciation he

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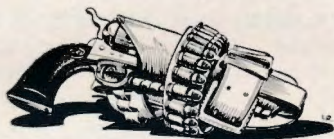
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felt he had earned, Garrett sold his New Mexico holdings and, again, moved to Texas.

In February, 1896, Colonel A. J. Fountain and his eight-year-old son were mysteriously murdered in Doña Ana County, New Mexico Territory, and Garrett was asked by Territorial Governor Thornton to investigate the murder. Garrett accepted the offer, writing his family, "They pay my expenses or \$150 a month, and \$8000 in case I succeed in arresting and convicting the murderers. (It) is an opportunity for me to make some money and a chance for me to get the Sheriff's office of Doña Ana County, which is worth \$6000 a year. Governor Thornton . . . thinks that within a month or two he can do so."

Quickly, Garrett fixed his sights on two men as the ones guilty of the Fountain murders. At the head of a posse, Garrett cornered these men at a ranch house. Shots were exchanged;



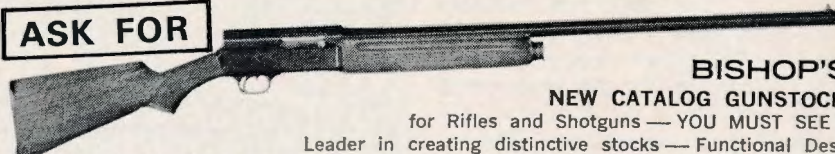
one of Garrett's deputies was mortally wounded; and the posse withdrew to take the dying man to a doctor. Shortly thereafter, the "wanted" men surrendered to the Sheriff of another county, were tried, and acquitted. The bodies of Colonel Fountain and his son have never been found and, in spite of an alleged "death-bed confession" in 1950, the case is still surrounded with mystery.

Garrett gained little kudos from his work on the Fountain case, but he did get the appointment as Sheriff of Doña Ana County. He served out his term in that office, but was not nominated for re-election. Again, he had failed to please the politicians in power.

But Garrett, too, had friends with influence in high places. On their recommendations, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Patrick F. Garrett Collector of Customs at El Paso, Texas, effective December 20, 1901. But on January 1, 1906, Roosevelt replaced Garrett with another appointee. At a Rough Riders Convention, which Roosevelt attended, Pat Garrett had elected to take his best friend in El Paso, Tom Powers, proprietor of the Coney Island Saloon in El Paso, where Garrett drank and gambled. Pictures of the event, showing the President in friendly proximity with Powers, caused Roosevelt some embarrassment, and he blamed

(Continued on page 60)

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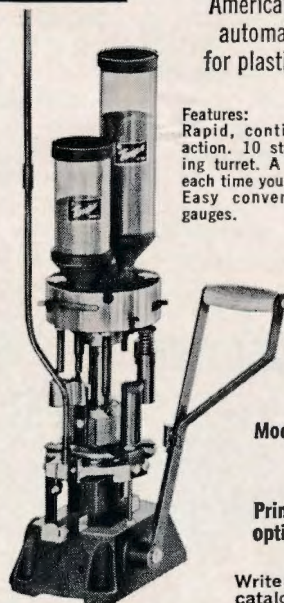
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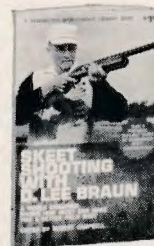
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on both sides for the carrying of shells and all the extra necessary paraphernalia a sportsman needs in the field. It also has a button-on hood. The scarlet side of the jacket has a drop-seat for sitting out those long hours on a deer stand, but also converts to a game pocket for those hunting late season small game in extremely cold weather. For further information about this Adirondack Hunting Parker from Woods Bag & Canvas Co. Ltd., write to them at 16 Lake Street, Ogdensburg, New York 13669.

**UTILITY IS** the watchword with the new Winchester Model 370 shotgun, a three-piece take-down that is practical as a knockabout ranch or farm gun or as a beginner's arm. Available in all gauges from 12 through .410, the 370 is a single barreled, break-open type smoothbore with automatic ejection. The gun has the tried-and-true



exposed hammer, serrated for sure thumbing, with a rebound safety position. The American hardwood stock has an uncapped pistol grip and hard composition buttplate. Carrying a suggested retail tag of \$35.95, the Winchester Model 370 is available at most sporting goods stores.

# SHOPPING WITH Guns

**SYMBOL OF ALL-OUTDOORS . . .** Winchester Hunting Plaid, the pattern of game silhouettes on a background of brilliant red, highlights a new line of sporting goods introduced by the Thermos Division of King-Seeley Thermos Company. The new one-quart Thermos Brand vacuum bottle (bottom left), which features a wide, sturdy bail handle for convenient carrying, has a suggested list price of \$2.95. For hunters who prefer doubles, there's the new Sports Kit (upper right) that loads with a pair of Win-



chester Hunting Plaid quart-size vacuum bottles plus a food or sandwich box for under \$12.00. Insuring maximum comfort during typical fall hunting weather is the new Thermos Brand sleeping bag (center) that comes in regular adult size (33 x 77-in.), priced at under \$30.00, and (King-Size 39 x 82-in.), retailing at under \$50.00. The new line, in Winchester Hunting Plaid, is manufactured by the Thermos Division of King-Seeley Thermos Company. Available now at most retail outlets.

**INSTRUCTIONS** are meant to be read and followed, but for the older and wiser or bet-hedging novice, George V.V. Brothers of Linspeed stock finish fame is offering a 32 pag illustrated manual on stock finishing. This detailed and fully pictured book is direct in its methods for guiding the man who wants a genuine oil finish of the very highest standards. This new handbook for gunstock craftsmen is now available directly from Geo. Brothers, Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230 for one dollar.

**L.L. BEAN, INC.,** Maine's legendary outdoorsman outfitters is offering to *Guns* readers a sturdy nine inch high service boot for field or work wear. Easy-on styling makes these extraordinarily comfortable yet provides the hunter firm support for arch and ankle. Rugged Goodyear welt and top grain oil tanned cowhide uppers plus the steel shanks and reinforced back stays make this boot last forever. Available in dark brown stain, in sizes 8 to 12C and 7 to 12E this boot has leather insoles and oil resistant Neoprene. Price: \$22.50 from L.L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine, 04032.

**TO TAKE THE EFFORT** out of loading BB guns, the M. G. Bauer Company has invented an **EZZE** BB gun loader. The loader, compact, automatic and easy to use, was developed to make BB gun loading easier. Manufactured in Bismarck, North Dakota, the loader is the first of its kind on



the market. It features the use of clear plastic and spring action, to avoid spillage. Priced at \$1.50 (Post-paid), the **EZZE** BB gun loader is now available at selected dealers in the midwest, or write M. G. Bauer Company, RR 1, Box 115, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.



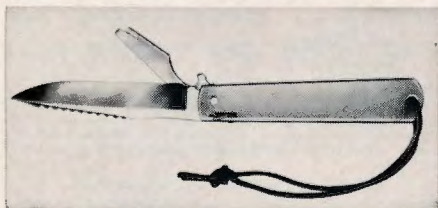
# SHOPPING WITH Guns

A NEW EXTRA LIGHTWEIGHT sporting binocular has been introduced by Southern Precision Instruments Company of San Antonio, Texas. The new 7 x 35 model is very wide angle, showing 11 degrees field of view at 578 feet. One piece monolithic construction with a magnesium frame affords utmost ruggedness and durability in the field. The fold-over retractable rubber eyepieces are designed for standard use or use with



spectacles. The optical system is fully coated for high light transmission and features a special ultra-violet coated anti-glare objective lens. Ocular rings and center focusing wheel are diamond milled finish for handsome appearance. There is a built-in tripod mount. This new lightweight binocular is \$59.50, complete with hard case, gift box and 5 year SPI guarantee. Contact Southern Precision Instrument Company, 710 Augusta Street, San Antonio, Texas 78215.

SHUR-LOCK SPORTSMAN KNIFE is the greatest sportsman's folding knife ever introduced. The knife fea-



tures a stainless steel handle completely corrosion free and a hand polished mirror finished blade made of high carbon steel so that it will maintain a razor sharp cutting edge longer than any other commercially manufactured knife. The back edge of the blade also has a fish-scaling surface. The new locking device is patented and completely unlike any other on the market today. Simple to operate and completely fool-proof, it also has a utility blade which has many useful outdoor devices, such as bottle-opener, fish hook disgorgers, screw driver, can opener and many other numerous bends and curves and grooves that can be used for an infinite number of chores in the field. The open length of the knife is a full 8¾-in., closed 4¾-in. It also has a leather thong attached so that it may be affixed to the belt or in a kit or wherever it may be carried and attached to prevent it from becoming lost. Truly an exciting outdoor bargain, priced at only \$4.95. For further information write to Challenger Manufacturing Company, 105-23 New York Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11433.

THE FAMOUS AND RARE 1923 edition of the Thompson catalog has been reprinted and is offered by Numrich Arms. Numrich presently owns the Auto Ordnance Corp., the originators of the Thompson submachine gun. Numrich also owns all patents and tooling and are sole manufacturers of Thompson guns and repair parts. The 1923 Thompson catalog is the most sought after submachine gun reference ever printed. Profusely illustrated with photos of rare models, it also shows special mounts and installations that only appear in this edition. Make your guns library more complete with this 1923 Thompson catalog for only \$1.95 from: Numrich Arms Corp., Dept. G-8, West Hurley, N.Y.

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(Continued from page 57)  
Garrett for it. The incident was typical of Garrett—a man of hearty hall-fellow habits which he took no pains to hide; a man stubbornly loyal to his friends, however ill-chosen.

In proof that mere loss of an important (and badly needed) job had not shaken his loyalty to Powers, Garrett gave (or loaned) Powers "the gun that killed Billy the Kid" for display in the Coney Island bar where it remained for many years as a tourist attraction. Long later, 25 years after Garrett's death and after Powers, too, had died, Mrs. Patrick F. Garrett sued the Powers heirs for possession of the gun, claiming that Pat had merely loaned it to Powers for exhibition. Powers' daughter insisted that the gun had been an outright gift. But the El Paso Times of November 11, 1933, reports that the Eight Court of Civil Appeals ruled that the gun belonged to Mrs. Garrett. It is now the property of Jarvis P. Garrett, Pat's son.

A figure of bitter controversy throughout his lifetime, controversy was to follow Garrett also in death. Early on the morning of February 29, 1908, Garrett left his ranch in the Organ Mountains, New Mexico Territory, in a buggy, accompanied by a man named Carl Adamson, en route to Las Cruces. Between the two men in the buggy was Garrett's shotgun, "In case," Pat said, "we might jump somethin' for the pot along the road."

On the way to town they were joined, by pre-arrangement, by Wayne Brazil, son of one of Garrett's deputies in the old days in Lincoln County, now a renter of land belonging to Garrett, but a man with whom Garrett had quarreled and was now seeking to evict. Brazil, on horseback, rode alongside the buggy. He carried a Colt's revolver on his hip, and there was a Winchester rifle in a saddle-scabbard under his leg.

A few miles short of Las Cruces, Garrett halted his team and stepped down out of the buggy. A shot was fired; then another. Garrett fell in the sand, one bullet having entered the

back of his head, the other hitting him in the stomach.

Wayne Brazil turned himself in to the Las Cruces authorities, confessing that he had killed Garrett "in self defense." Carl Adamson supported that story. They said that Garrett and Brazil had been quarrelling, that Garrett "reached back into the buggy for his shotgun," and Brazil shot him. According to officers who inspected the scene of the killing, "Pat's gun lay parallel to his body about three feet from him. It was a shotgun . . . broken (that is, the barrel and stock were separated and would have had to be fitted together before it could be fired), and in its scabbard."

A take-down shotgun, still scabbarded in two pieces, could hardly have presented a serious threat to a man on horseback, armed with a revolver and a rifle. Yet Brazil's story of self defense, backed up by Adamson's testimony, could not be broken. Brazil was acquitted.

Even people who had been Garrett's enemies in his lifetime were indignant over the manner of his death, yet there was no threat of violence toward Brazil—for the simple reason that no one believed his story. It was believed then, and is believed today, that Garrett was killed by a hired assassin, and that Brazil was persuaded or paid to "confess" the shooting, having been provided with a witness who would make it impossible to break the story. The case remains another of New Mexico's unsolved mysteries.

Oddly enough, this man whose name and fame as a lawman have filled more pages, provoked more controversy, than any other Western lawman, spent only about six years of his life in law enforcement. Yet he was a part of two of the most notorious, the most publicity-making "cases" that occurred in the whole Southwest in his lifetime; three, if you count his own murder.

Like a tall tree on a prairie, he drew the lighting. And like that tree, he cast a long shadow.



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## THE MAB PA-15

(Continued from page 33)

removed, along with its spring and plunger, and its removal does not otherwise affect the pistol's operation.

Externally, the PA-15 is a handsome pistol, its flat planes and sculptured lines are further enhanced by the absence of any stamped sheet steel external part. Even the magazine floorplate is machined from a flat steel block. Internally, only the trigger bar-disconnector and the magazine safety are stamped. Except for the sear spring, a long, flat type similar to the one in the Browning P-35, all springs are round wire, either helical coil or shaped otherwise according to function. Sights are large and well shaped, their surfaces angled to prevent snagging on the holster; square post front, square notch rear. As in most military pistols, they are

magazine, since different loads produce different points-of-impact.

Groups tended to open up a bit with the heavier-loaded Canadian cartridges, closed somewhat with the U. S. commercial rounds, and really tightened up with the target handloads. Best group was three inches, good results considering that I was not familiar with the pistol, and that no rest was used. Because of the barrel rotation locking system and its progressive release, the MAB worked as smoothly with the light loads, around 900 fps, as with the 1200 fps canadian rounds. Also, there was no indication on the higher-velocity fired cases of premature unlocking.

After the target work, I decided to try some unsighted quickshooting to test the PA-15's inherent pointing



non-adjustable. On my particular PA-15 (a non-selected, regular commercial model), no adjustment was needed.

When I range-tested the MAB, I found that the only way to miss was to do so intentionally. The pistol was brand new, and at the start the trigger pull was a bit scratchy. However, by the time I had run two full magazines (30 rounds) through it, the pull had settled down to a crisp four pounds. Because of the pistol's weight, hammer fall was almost imperceptible. Ammunition was Canadian and U. S. commercial, with one magazine of light target reloads. Firing was from 25 yards at standard pistol targets. Ammo was not mixed in each

capabilities. Firing was from 15 yards at standing 3 x 6 inch pieces of white pine, and after one near-miss aiming shot the MAB almost without exception flipped the little plank end-over-end.

Takedown of the PA-15 is simple and easy. Fortunately so, since the brochure supplied with the pistol contains not one instruction nor illustration regarding disassembly.

Being sure that the pistol is unloaded, cock the hammer and remove the magazine. Then move the slide back about a quarter-inch until the semi-circular cut in its lower edge lines up with the identically shaped tab on the slide latch, and push the end of the slide latch shaft, exposed

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on the right side of the frame, toward the left. As soon as it clears the slide cut, the slide latch may be withdrawn from the frame. Slide and its components may now be run forward off the frame. To remove recoil spring assembly from slide, pull barrel base away from barrel until it clears the lower lug, and remove the assembly to the rear. Barrel may now be lifted from the lower slide opening. Reassemble in reverse order. When removing and replacing slide latch, be sure it is properly aligned with its corresponding openings and not allowed to turn, or it will mar the finish of slide or frame. For the non-gunsmith, any further disassembly is definitely not recommended.

Markings of interest to collectors are apparently the same on the commercial and military models, with the exception already mentioned, the grips. On the left slide flat, "PISTOLET AUTOMATIQUE MAB BREVETE—S.G.D.G." The "MAB" at the center is in the larger stylized letters of the trademark. On the right upper slide flat, forward of the ejection port, "MODELE PA-15." Just below this, "MADE IN FRANCE." On the right frame above the trigger, "PA. 15 M1"—followed by the serial number. On the barrel at the ejection port, "CAL. 9 mm." Proof testing marks appear on

the barrel, right rear slide flat, and right forward trigger guard base.

In making a choice between the MAB PA-15 and the Browning P-35, these points must be considered: The MAB gives you one more round in fully loaded capacity than the Browning with Canadian magazine, and its weight aids in accuracy. On the other hand, the Browning is 7.15 ounces lighter, and slightly more compact. Assuming that you will practice quite a bit with whatever you buy, the inherent accuracy factor becomes less important. After using my P-35 Browning for 16 years, I can do a bit better with it than with the new MAB. So, it comes down to this: Is the extra round worth the difference in weight? In some situations, it could make a lot of difference. With two spare magazines, it would mean *three* extra rounds. As always, this is a question the buyer must decide for himself.

The PA-15 is well-designed, well-made, reliable, and of very sturdy construction. If you do not object to the extra weight, and if you want the ultimate in handgun magazine capacity, this is the one to buy. The MAB PA-15 is imported by Centennial Arms, 3318 W. Devon Ave., Lincolnwood, Ill. Your local dealer can order one for you.



## TRIPLE TWO TERROR

(Continued from page 31)

Prior to World War Two, our small game and varmint hunters were raising a demand for a factory made cartridge on the order of the R-2 Lovell. A number of proposals were made, including a suggestion to produce a rimless version. I recall a sketch of a proposed "Rimless Lovell" that appeared in the "Dope Bag" section of the "American Rifleman."

Sport shooting tapered off during the war to ammunition shortages and the cry for a factory Lovell turned to echos. The dull rumblings rose again after the conflict and a lush market awaited the program move.

Around 1950, Remington uncloaked its new wonder cartridge, the .22 Remington! To steer this sassy speedster, they offered a sleek, short-action boltgun, the Model 722. One of these promptly found its way into my gun rack.

The new cartridge design was credited to Mike Walker of Remington Research and Development Center. Maybe they should have called it

"Mikes Marvel". At any rate, Mike Walker is an avid accuracy addict with an impressive list of successes in bench rest competition. The sweet shooting .222 soon proved that it could spit its spitzers into uncommonly small groups and it earned numerous wins in precision shooting matches.

The .222 Remington was announced as the first completely new commercial cartridge developed in many years. It was not revamped from any existing cartridge case. This is true, in a sense. However, I strongly suspect that it evolved from the rimless .30 carbine cartridge. By using a similar head and a longer cup draw and necking the new length to .22 you have the answer. This does not alter the "new" claim because the .30 carbine cartridge was, at that time, not a commercial cartridge. It is also possible that the R-2 wildcat came under scrutiny in arriving at a proper case capacity. I do not mean that the sharpshooting .222 is a rimless copycat of the old Lovell. Modern design



and development techniques were in evidence to obtain the proper capacity-pressure-velocity ratio that allows that 50 grain bullet to attain its 3200 f.p.s. velocity with moderate pressures. Further proof of its over-all compatibility is evidenced by its excellent handloading characteristics. Any way you look at it, the .222 Remington is a gem!

The boys who like to refill their brass can take particular delight in the rewarding results obtained with the "triple two" terror. It is actually difficult to make the .222 shoot bad—and apparently any clumsy clown can make it shoot good!

I admire the Hornet but I must admit you can make a Hornet out of the .222 at will. You merely look up a docile load that moves a 46 grain bullet at 2690 feet per second and there you have it! Now then, would you like to try a .218 Bee? Just pick a load that adds about 170 f.p.s. to the same bullet and you're in business. How do you like that for flexibility? We could go on and on, mentioning



cast bullet loads that will slap squirrels without a mess, plus turkey taggers, target trophy takers, cheap plinking loads—you name it and the .222 can deliver it! From tin cans on the farmyard fence to a chicken chompin' red fox at 250 yards, the triple two is right in its element.

I just made mention of a 250 yard distance on old Reynard the fox. That's a good limit for the .222. I will grant that occasional hits have been made on small game beyond that range. However, a good rifleman who is also a good sportsman will always recognize the limitations of his rifle. Every gun has its *practical* effective range. Let's be fair. The .222 is accurate, humane and effective out to 250 yards. Come to think of it, that's pretty darn far! Pace it off and see.

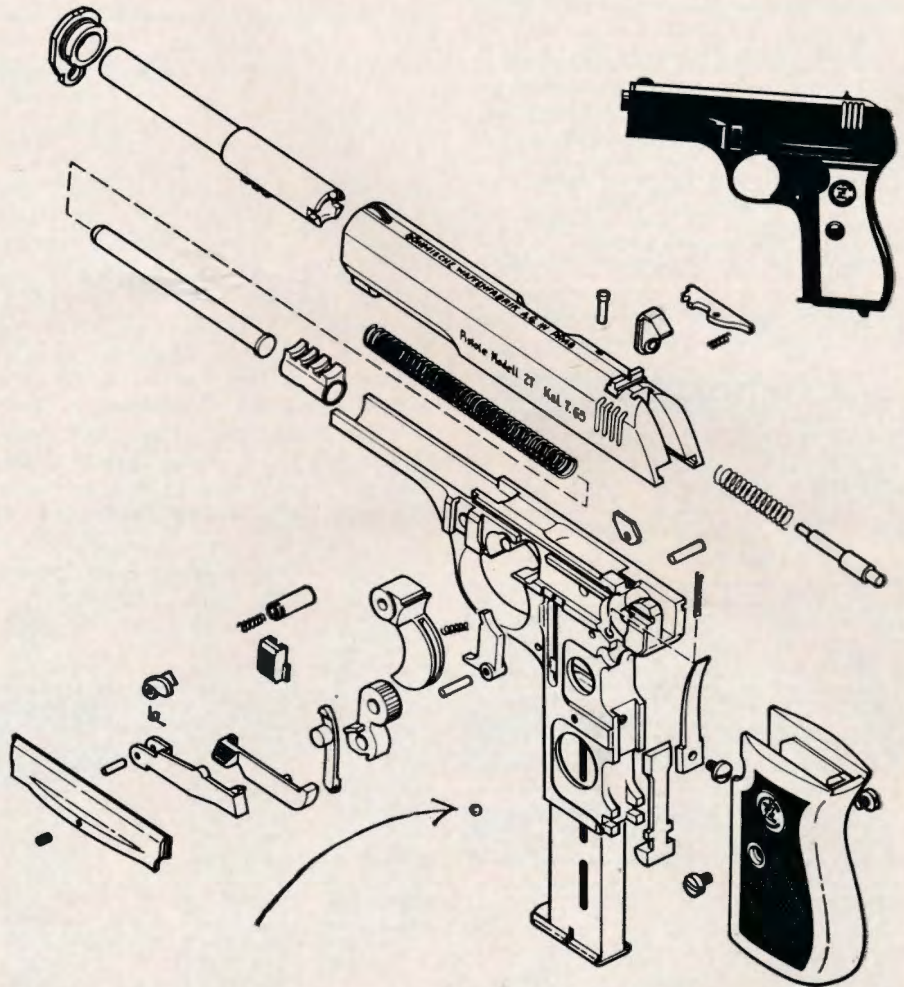
A few years after the .222 was announced, a big brother appeared. By lengthening the "triple two" case, Remington made a cartridge that was submitted to an Ordnance Board studying the military aspects of high velocity .22's. The cartridge was not accepted and it was decided to market the new round commercially. Named the ".222 Magnum," the new cartridge became a bigger, but younger, brother



# AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE WALTHER MODEL 9

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



**A**DOPED BY THE CZECH Government in 1927, the Model P/27 was the last of a series of pistols developed from a Mauser design circa 1920. The safety and its "push-button" release is strictly Mauser and probably was the excuse for the royalty payments. Note that the release catch follows the Mauser M/1910 design; the wider, M/1934 catch was yet to be introduced. The disconnect-sear design is suggestive of the Ortgies pistol; the firing pin retainer is similar to the Colt M/1911 .45 Auto.

As would be expected, the quality of workmanship of mechanism is excellent; the gun is reliable and very accurate.

In addition to the regular issue for Czech Official use, two others are to be encountered. A somewhat rough (externally) variation was produced for German Military use. There was also the commercial issue, well finished and with walnut grips. Parts are interchange-

able for the three issues.

The magazine follower will come up and hold the slide back when last shot is fired; unlike the Mauser 1910/34, pulling out the empty magazine will allow the slide to close—thus this feature is only an indicator for "empty pistol" and not a convenience for reloading in emergencies.

To field strip: Retract slide over empty magazine. (2) Press right end of take-down latch inward while maintaining downward pressure on latch release on left side of gun. (3) Withdraw latch assembly to left and out. (4) Holding slide and frame together, withdraw magazine. (5) Ease slide forward. Assemble in reverse order.

It is reported that production of the P/27 was discontinued a few years ago; as a representative martial it is expected that remaining specimens will be subject to sharp price increases.



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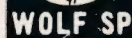


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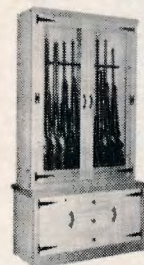
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The new round offered a bullet that was five grains heavier and 100 fps faster. This gave it slightly better ranging qualities plus improved wind resistance. However, the ballistic advantage is quite nominal in this writers opinion and is certainly not enough to substantially shadow the vast popularity of the standard .222 in the eyes of varminters.

Shortly thereafter, our Ordnance

did adopt a 5.56 mm military round which appeared commercially as the .223 Remington. Here again we meet big brother competition in a case that is slightly smaller than the .222 Magnum. Its 55 grain bullet moves just under 3200 fps. Again, no great sweat for the triple two. The .223 may get a surge in the future if surplus stocks of military ammo are turned loose, but to date, the .222 Remington is still king of the castle!

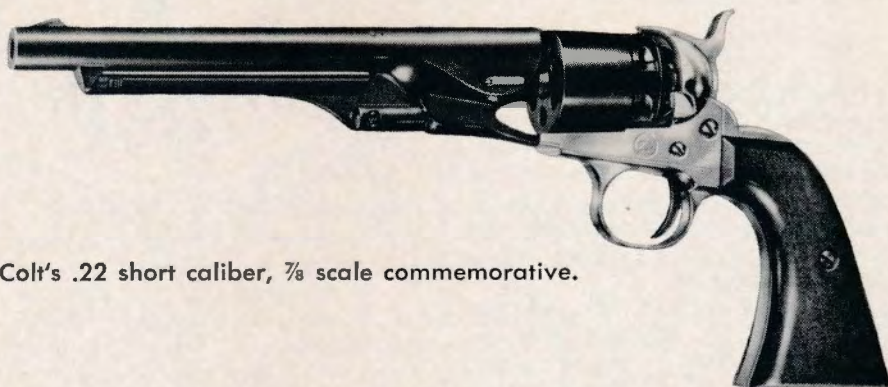


## COMMEMORATIVE GUNS

(Continued from page 25)

and at the same time reduced and curbed their value. The same thing happened in a more marked way to the Remington double-deringer .41 Caliber rim fire. It was on its way to becoming a valuable gun when all sorts of imitations appeared on the market in calibers from .22 rim fire to .357 magnum. Therefore, I don't think reproductions of any type have in the long run really bolstered the value of a collection of genuine guns. We still have the economic law of supply and demand and as supply is increased there will be a corresponding drop in demand.

been for this, many of us might have gone in ignorance to our graves without knowing that there even was a Genesco, Illinois, let alone that it had survived 125 years. But with this issue of a new/old gun, Colt opened the flood gates. We now find in our ranks a new collector, called in Christian charity, the Commemorative gun collector. This new breed had another thing going for him. If he had enough money he could own a complete set of all the Commemorative guns ever made, overnight, collections sprung up. I know of a man who never owned a gun until the mid 1960's who started



Colt's .22 short caliber, 7/8 scale commemorative.

I have watched with interest a new dimension in gun collecting which started about 1961. It is called collecting commemorative guns, but even this description fails to explain the whole phenomenon. Colt, which had always been a rather conservative New England-type firm, started making a type of reproduced firearm called a "Commemorative".

To give you an idea of how far the word "Commemorative" can be stretched—let us look at the first set of Deringers that were made by Colt and contracts for by an Illinois dealer. They were to commemorate the 125th anniversary of this dealer's home town—Genesco, Illinois. Had it not

winning prizes for the most complete display of Commemorative Colts.

We of the old guard thought this madness would pass, but so far it has not. We pointed out that the fun of collecting used to be the thrill of the chase. One would hear a vague rumor that a certain farmer, always miles away, had a certain rare pistol. The old-school collector would approach his quarry, the farmer, as a leopard stalks a nervous deer. Finally, maybe months later, the collector had the pistol, the farmer had all the collector's loose cash, everybody was satisfied, and the collector returned to his lair a contented and weary man.

Not so with Commemoratives. In



this form of "instant-collection" just send your check to any of a number of Commemorative brokers and you are in business with very little effort and no sense of accomplishment.

Colt was not the only first line manufacturer to join in this new form of collecting. Winchester, Remington and Ithaca have also slipped to the occasional Commemorative and even Ruger who started business by making a copy of the Colt single action has joined the ranks by making a commemorative (copy of their copy) of the Colt single action. I don't really think that one can criticize the manufacturers for selling Commemorative guns. They saw a market and, naturally, it is good business to supply that market with a product.

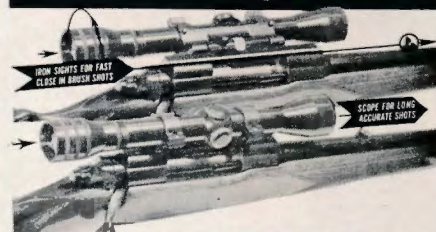
The next point about Commemorative pistols is that they should not be fired since using them reduces their value. Now this is pretty strange talk when you think that they are brand new, made of the best steel, and yet, are not to be used for their intended purpose. This really means that a Commemorative collector must go out and buy a beat up *real* gun of the same type if he wants to shoot. I'll admit I don't shoot every gun in my collection even though they are all less than 80 years old and in good shooting condition. But, I collect automatic pistols, and I just don't take a Savage .45 A.C.P. automatic out and shoot it. They were a limited (less than 300) non-commemorative issue made by Savage Arms Company for field testing by the U.S. Cavalry in 1907. I won't shoot mine because it is too rare, too old, too irreplaceable, and too historically important. All the adjectives I've used to say why I won't shoot my Savage .45, can not be fairly applied to a Commemorative. Yet, in 1964, Colt made 200 Commemorative single actions which they called the *Col. Sam Colt Sesquicentennial Deluxe Presentation .45*. Today they are worth more than \$750. You could get an original Savage .45 for that kind of money.

Another type of reproduction gun has just come on the market. They are made of zinc die castings and definitely non-shootable. They come from Japan, where a gun collecting civilian is absolutely forbidden to own

a pistol. These guns function and even will run their own dummy rounds manually through the action. They are relatively inexpensive and offer a way for a young collector to start collecting both legally and at low cost. The Japanese may well start making reproductions of Commemorative guns. This would certainly be interesting to see and I wonder what the reaction of the Commemorative collector to a replica die cast commemorative collector would be. My guess is he would feel somewhat as we gun collectors feel about him today.

I had watched the Commemorative phenomenon grow from 1961 until 1967 with a sort of "every man to his own poison" attitude. Why should I get excited about a reproduction of a cranky old Colt single action pistol made to commemorate the day when headstrong General Custer left his Gatling guns back at the fort. I'm an automatic collector and I felt, "Who

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would ever make or be able to sell a commemorative automatic?" Well, needless to say my dream has been shattered, Colt shot me down with a real humdinger. It is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of United States entry into World War I and Colt really has gone whole hog on this one. The basic pistol is the Colt Automatic pistol .45 Model 1911 of which there will be four issues different only in name. The first is called Chateau-Thierry, the second Belleau Wood, and the third Marne River and the last, we can hope, Meuse-Argonne. Now this would seem to indicate that our unimaginative, well-heeled commemorative collector would have to get all four to have a complete collection, but no, Colt went further than this. They have offered each of the four different pistols in three different grades. Standard at \$200 per, Deluxe at \$500 and, for the guy that has everything, Custom Deluxe at \$1000.

So if you have to own every Commemorative to be in the swim, I figure it will cost \$1700 per issue or a mere \$6,800 for the package. For this price you would have a representative collection of all the variations of the real Colt Automatic .45 and that is something worth having. And you might even take one out and shoot it!

I still like to hold and shoot the real thing. Half my fun in collecting has been to think that this Mauser Military might have been in Lt. Winston Churchill's hand at Omdurman fighting the Fuzzi-Wuzzis. That this Colt automatic might have been in Major James G. Taylor's hand at Chateau-Thierry as he and 200 men held the Germans at bay in World War I. This is one of the thrills of collecting and somehow I feel it is lost in Commemorative collecting.

Finally, I don't believe that planned rarity is a real rarity. Historically, guns which are in limited number are desirable and rare, but to deliberately set out to make limited editions does not satisfy my definition of rarity. With the entire gun collecting fraternity hanging by a political thread I hate to rock the boat and lash out at a fellow collector, yet I feel that Commemoratives are not true guns and therefore can't in themselves form a gun collection.

Yes, the amassing of a number of Commemorative guns is a collection, but not to my mind a collection of guns! This whole article may seem to be prejudiced, but let me remind all of you—some of my best friends are Commemorative Collectors. 

## NEW GUNS FOR 1969

(Continued from page 29)

match target shooting and boasts the finest adjustable micrometered sights, adjustable trigger pull, and an opposing piston to dampen recoil. Winchester will also sell match pellets for the new line. The two pistols are target types with adjustable open rear sights, rifled barrels, good triggers, and other refinements. Calibers are .177 and .22.

In 1965 the company began selling commemorative rifles, the first celebrating the Wyoming State centennial. In 1966 the company celebrated its 100th anniversary. There was a commemorative Model 94 for the occasion. It sold like hot cakes. Some 40,000 were made up and these sold out in the first month. After that another 100,000 were manufactured and sold. Winchester found that 21% of the buyers of these commemorative models were not shooters, but collectors.

This year there will be two new commemorative models; the Teddy Roosevelt and the Golden Spike. The Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads will assist in the celebration of the Golden Spike Centennial. This

is the 100th year since the rails spanned this continent. As for Teddy Roosevelt, his exploits are so well known they need no repeating. He hunted all over this continent and in Africa with a variety of Winchester rifles. The Roosevelt rifle is referred to as the Model 1886 model which was a favorite of his. Actually, the model to be presented will be the Model 94 with a considerable amount of gold plate, medallions, and engraving. It is a pity it could not have been the '86 model, or the '95, another favorite of our ex-president.

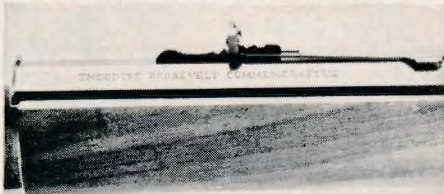


The Golden Spike commemorative has a gold-plated receiver. Imbedded in the stock is a medallion struck by the U.S. Mint to do honor to this centennial celebration. The rifle is the Model 94 with golden barrel bands  
(Continued on next page)



and buttplate. The stock is walnut, the receiver is appropriately engraved, and its caliber is the .30-30.

Like its ranking competitor Remington, Winchester has realized there are some left-handed shooters, too. To do something for this clan the company has made up a lefty action for the popular Model 1400 autoloading scattergun. The receiver has been redesigned to eject its empties to the



left. Made only in 12 gauge their southpaw model is offered in field grades as well as skeet and trap versions.

The Winchoke is a new variable choke for both the Model 1200 and the 1400 shotguns. This gizmo screws down inside the muzzle of the gun instead of attaching to the business end and extending beyond it. This is a novel departure and an appealing

one. The Winchoke is about 2½ inches in length and comes in 20, 16 and 12 gauges and all the usable chokes. An examination of the barrel of the Model 1400 shows that the inside tube screws up against a shoulder milled in the barrel muzzle. The shot-load flows smoothly from the true barrel into the choke tube with this arrangement. Tested on mallards the Winchoke performed in a highly satisfactory fashion.

In 1967 Winchester came along with an economy version of the famed Model 70 rifle. This was called the Model 670, and it was an instant success. Tough and rugged and just as strong in every way as the M70, the 670 now has a twin. This one, announced at the meeting, is the Model 770. It is very much like the M670 and utilizes the same action as the Model 70, but not its fancy finish. The stock is ordinary although checkered, the bluing not as glossy, and the bolt is left in the white without engine-turning or any fol-de-rol. But as for accuracy and performance the latest of the 70 series can be expected to give full measure.

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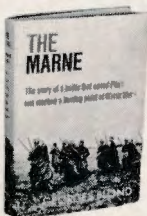


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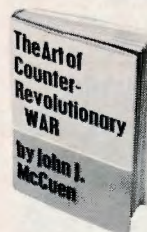


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**THE VALIANT VIS**

(Continued from page 20)

superb Browning Hi-Power, but he died in 1926, before he saw it in production. The Hi-Power was patented in the United States on Washington's birthday in 1927, three months after Browning died. It was introduced in 1935. The Vis evolved from all this: The Colt .45 service auto was the phototype 'father' while the 9mm Hi-Power was the sophisticated 'mother' in this marriage; the Vis (the 'off-spring'), designed after the Hi-Power was patented, and by Browning designers, evolved from these two famous predecessors. This is very good lineage for any military pistol.

This hybrid's main departure from the Browning-Colt designs is found in the gun's most unique feature, the manual safety. It is not a thumb safety in the conventional sense. That is, it is not a thumb safety to simply lock the action. It is a drop-hammer safety, located on the left-hand side of the slide. When the hammer is fully cocked with a shell in the chamber, the safety can be pressed down a quarter inch (against spring tension). Such movement rotates a cutaway bolt which is connected to the hammer and firing pin. This results in the firing pin being withdrawn into its 2¼" tunnel in the breechlock, compressing its spring so that the end of the firing pin is safely inside the tunnel where the hammer cannot strike it. As you continue to press the safety, a click will be heard. This results from the placement of a bar of steel between hammer and firing pin. Thereafter contact is made with the sear, releasing the hammer. The hammer falls safely on the shoulder of the breechblock.

The Polish Cavalry simply wanted a safety device in which a cavalryman could have complete control over his weapon, *with one hand*. They wanted an arm in which, at the first sign of trouble, they could cock the hammer with the thumb. Then, if the trouble passed, they could, while riding, release the hammer with the thumb and let it drop safely on the loaded chamber. The Vis answered this need.

The safety on the Vis is one of the best. In fact, the drop-hammer safety is so ingeniously designed, the Carl Walther Works copied it for their P-38. The finest safety ever devised for an automatic pistol is to be found on the Walther PP and PPK 7.65mm models, a tribute in itself to the contribution of the Vis safety. Some au-

thors consider the Vis safety superior to the P-38's because the hammer on the Vis never touches the firing pin. On the P-38, the hammer drops harmlessly on a *locked* firing pin.

Like its parents, our 1911 .45 Colt and the improved 1935 F. N. Hi-Power Browning, the Vis has an inherited grip safety. The slide-stop is the typical Browning-Colt design, holding the breech open when the last cartridge is ejected.

Importantly, the Vis inherited the barrel looking system of the Browning Hi-Power. It does not have the swinging link of the Colt 1911 design. As with the Browning, it is fitted with a thick special barrel lug machined below the firing chamber end of the barrel. This is a decided improvement over the recoil locking system of the Colt .45 Model 1911, as well as an improvement over earlier Browning models. It is on par with the elite Browning Hi-Power, in that the system is far stronger for hotter loads.

Lee Jurras, president of Super Vel, supplied me with his new 9mm Super Vel for testing. I am running photo tests to show visually the relative stopping power of hydrostatic shock produced via super speeds and specially designed bullets. Muzzle energy in foot pounds is only a paper figure equated from the weight of a bullet with its speed, and actually means little. Such mathematics do not compute the design or composition of the bullet or the effects of hydrostatic shock produced by super velocities. Jurras and I feel that photo comparisons provide much better means of indicating stopping power. I selected the Vis for the tests. I clocked the 90 grain JHP Super Vel bullets at 1510 ft./sec. from the 4¾" barrel of the Vis. The Vis handled this ammo with ease and never jammed once in firing 150 rounds.

The hammer on the Vis is the rounded, European design, with a hole in it. This donut design was selected because the weapon was intended specifically for cavalry use. Cavalrymen often quick-cock by thrusting its knurled, round head against the side of the leg or saddle when firing in cramped positions from galloping horseback. This is also the reason so many early European designs used this type of hammer. They are also cheaper to manufacture than the American variety. This, too, was inherited from the Browning Hi-Power.

W. H. B. Smith states, in his com-



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prehensive book on pistols and revolvers (in which he chooses to call the Vis the Radom), that "Its general over-all appearance and construction resembles the Colt .45 Model 1911 quite closely. However, the grip has a better pitch and the hang and balance have been improved."

Charles Askins (who also chooses to call the Vis the Radom), in his highly accredited book on target shooting, claims that the drop-hammer safety on the Vis "is one of the best." He mentions, also, that it is possible the Russians are presently producing this weapon at the Radom Arsenal. The Russians aren't known for letting any weaponry get by them.

Aside from the prospects of Russian models, there have been three produced. The original (the peacetime issue) was made between 1936 and 1939. The Nazis produced two wartime models. The first is, except for slightly different stampings with the Nazi eagle and Waffen-Amt. proof markings, identical mechanically to the peacetime model. The first German runs have the same high-grade finish of the peacetime issues for the Polish Army. Later, however, when the tide of war became difficult, production shortcuts resulted in weapons with tool marks. Finally, with manpower and material shortages, the Nazis omitted the hold-open latch (making field-stripping difficult), and replaced the black composition, checkered, grips with wooden, serated grips.

Some of the original models and early Nazi runs have stock slots in the backstraps. No matching stocks have ever been found. The Poles apparently hadn't reached this stage of production prior to Hitler's invasion.

Disassembly is accomplished by first removing the magazine. The chamber, of course, is checked for any possible cartridge that might have been overlooked. Thereafter, the slide is pulled back about one inch, until the hold-open latch can be pushed up to engage in its corresponding slot on the slide. If the hold-open latch is tight and hard to budge (as happens with some of the wartime models and/or chromed pieces), the bottom has to be pushed with the thumbnail. This angle will move the tightest fits. Once the hold-open latch holds the slide open, the gun should be turned so that its right-side is up. The slide-stop should then fall out. If it does not, a slight pull on the recoil spring guide, which is now protruding thru the front of the slide, will bring the results desired. This eases the tension on the slide-stop pin. The pin can be tapped if the slide-stop still hangs up. Next, hold the slide



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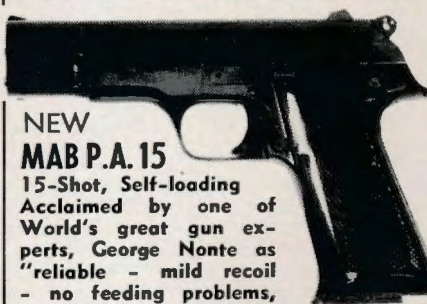


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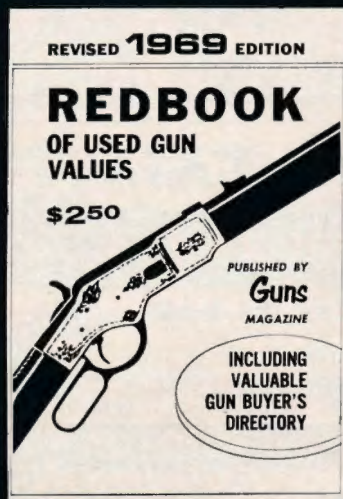
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against the recoil spring tension and release the hold-open latch and ease the slide and barrel units forward, off their guides. The recoil spring may then be lifted out with slight turning and/or compression. (The spring is kinkproof.) The barrel is lifted out towards the back.

Although the Master, W. H. B. Smith, claims this is a tricky weapon to dismount and assemble, I do not find this to be the case. It is assembled in the reverse order. Care must be taken with such a design so as not to bounce the lugs on the top of the barrel out of their locking recesses in the slide. This can easily be done since you run the slide onto the receiver (frame, if you prefer) while holding the weapon upside down. An awkward finger can push the barrel thru the breech opening, dislocating it before the slide is back in battery position. The gun just won't go back together properly if the barrel isn't properly indexed. But if this is understood, it presents no difficulty when pushing back the slide in assembly.

The 9mm Vis is a top-notch semi-automatic pistol. It is true that the finish on some models is crude in comparison to commercial pistols. The mechanism, however, is not crude; and is dependably functional. The gun is really a collector's item.

Only 90,000 odd pistols were produced. It can be estimated that only a fraction of that amount still exist. Many were actually destroyed when confiscation swept thru Europe after World War II. The war likewise took its toll with this weapon. The Poles sabotaged German shipments. Therefore, if any reader should chance upon one of these guns, grab it. And if you come upon one in mint condition with Russian stampings, well, sell it to me.

Our Model 1911 .45 Auto and the Browning Hi-Power should be proud parents of their 'valiant' love-child.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

*The conclusions reached by the German Command about the possibility of replacing the regular firing pin with an extra-long one, thus in effect destroying the function of the safety, may well be tested in the U.S. courts. In a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court—in a ruling concerned with the makeup of a jury in a capital offense—spared Bill Witherspoon from a death sentence. If a new trial is held, the Vis may well be the pivotal point on which Witherspoon's life will again hang in the balance.*

## THE MOSSBERG 800

(Continued from page 49)

This stock is a bit too straight for the iron sights which are standard on the straight M800. These sights consist of ramp type gold bead front sight and a Lyman folding open rear sight. The receiver on all models is tapped and drilled for both aperture sights and scope mounts. The varmint model comes with scope blocks in place. The M800 can be ordered from the factory with the Mossberg 4X hunting scope in place. It will be sighted in at the factory, but the new owner should not accept this. Everyone shoots a bit differently and if this combo is ordered the marksman should check out the zero to be sure it agrees with his eyes.

The magazine is the box type, staggered with a hinged floorplate so that the rifle may be unloaded by simply tripping the latch at the rear of the floorplate. The magazine holds four cartridges with a fifth in the chamber. The standard M800 weighs about 6½ lbs. and is 42 inches in length. The varmint grade weighs about 9½ lbs.

without a scope and with its 24 inch barrel has an overall dimension of 44 inches.

There are one inch sling swivels on all the rifles except the deluxe grade. On this rifle, as well as the varmint grade, there are non-ventilated recoil pads. These have been added not so much to eliminate recoil but to make the butt grip the shoulder the better. The deluxe has an engine-turned bolt and the selected walnut stock is fitted with a contrasting rosewood tip. All the metal parts have been given an extra polish, and the bluing is especially fetching.

The bullgun has a heavy barrel with a diameter at the receiver ring of 1⅞" and a muzzle dimension of 1⅞". It is 24 inches in length and is tapped and drilled for a target scope. There are no iron sights. The barrel is free floating from a point about four inches ahead of the receiver ring. There is a big sturdy recoil lug which bears full-face on the recoil shoulder in the stock. On the varmint model



sent me for firing test, the trigger pull ran 4 lbs. 2 oz.

Fired at 200 yards, after having been equipped with the Weaver 3X-9X vari-power scope in Weaver mounts, the .243 cartridge grouped 10 shots into 3.10 inches. At 100 yards, 20 shots printed into 1.42 inches. The ammo was standard Federal 100-gr. Hi-Shok loading. Taken into the game fields it accounted for a hawk at 272 yards, a coyote dropped in a single shot at 243 yards, and a fox was struck and killed at 187 yards as it trotted across an opening in the mesquite. The rifle is certainly a superb var-

mint-predator gun.

The Model 800 rifle was designed by Louis Seecamp under the eye of Carl Benson, Vice President of research and design. Benson has been with the company for 38 years. He also saw to the design of the M500 shotgun and numerous .22 rifles.

I have long been an admirer of all things Mossberg. It has been my contention for the past 30 years that you get more bang for your buck when you buy a Mossberg than with most any other shooting iron in this country. The new line of 800 rifles furthers this contention.



## MODERN MUZZLE LOADERS

(Continued from page 36)

entire action is machined from solid steel stock and requires approximately 25 hours of work alone.

At present two calibers, .45 and .58, are being produced with six groove Numrich barrels being used for both models. Barrel contour is slender and well shaped with lengths being 26 or 28 inches. The makers consider 28 inches to be the longest length that can be used while still retaining the modern lines and quick handling properties of their rifles.

Unless a special stock is ordered the standard stock is a racy job designed by none other than Reinhard Fajen. However stocks can be made along classic lines or they will build you a sleek looking, untramodern thumbhole job. The finish on these stocks is a brilliant, hand rubbed oil finish which, if anything, is too pretty to take into the woods, and is a far cry from the smelly bear grease or sperm oil finishes used on the old-time muzzle loaders.

Shooting one of these rifles is so easy and comfortable that one is inclined to forget it's a charcoal burner until the hammer hits and the smoke billows. When firing one of these rifles with a scope one gets a peculiar sensation when the target suddenly disappears and nothing can be seen but crosshairs of a flat white field.

Recoil is practically unnoticeable when firing the 126 gr. .45 caliber lead ball but becomes somewhat pronounced with 306 gr. conical slug. Recoil from the 510 gr. .58 caliber conical slug can be described as a firm but not at all unpleasant push. Recommended powder charges for the .45 caliber rifle is 70 and 85 gr. of FFFG powder for the ball and conical respectively, and .85 gr. of FFG for the .58 caliber bullet. The rifles are proof

fired with 200 grains of powder but this test is mostly a check for gas leaks around the breech. Actually the safety margin of these rifles is so great that they might be fired with a barrel filled to the muzzle with powder and suffer no ill effects. This, of course, is black powder only!

Accuracy with both the .45 and .58 caliber rifles is astonishingly good. Perfectly cast bullets and well adjusted loads are, of course, a must for good shooting. Five-shot test groups fired at 100 yards by the author ran a uniform three inches without cleaning between shots. The first three shots from a cold clean barrel would usually go into 2 inches or slightly less. Such accuracy is not uncommon for a high grade muzzle loading rifle, even of the traditional style, but the average hunter-shooter will shoot far better with the modern, better fitting stock. Too, the modern sights, both optical or peep, tend to provide considerably more accurate grouping.

As a hunting arm these rifles have produced some stunning results. Since the M-L hunter, as a rule, only gets one shot he is obliged to place his single offering in a vital area of the game. These new rifles with their greatly improved handling characteristics are a definite aid in this, but the conical bullets, both .45 and .58, have been found to be excellent game stoppers. Recovered bullets indicate that the soft lead bullets mushroom superbly. Too, the moderate velocity (1400-1800 f.p.s., depending on load) combined with the heavy bullet assures a dependable, deep-penetrating, brush-bucking load.

To see just how well the .45 caliber conical bullet penetrated we fired one into a rock-hard piece of cured maple.

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Penetration was a more-than-satisfactory five inches. Even more satisfying was that the bullet remained well on course and *held solidly together*. Such a performance is a gratifying recommendation for any bullet.

All rifles produced are in the "deluxe" grade finish and bright blue with the base price, exclusive of sights, being a modest \$150.00. I asked one of the makers how they managed

such a low price considering the long hours of machine work and the large amount of hand labor which goes into the completed rifle. With the soft, modest voice typical of mountain people I was informed that they probably didn't "come out even" on the rifles. "But anyway," one replied with a shy grin, "we ain't supposed to do too well in this here poverty stricken district."



## POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 15)

treme necessity for absolutely perfect sight alignment, that is the front post with the rear notch, the sharks have all discovered that the part of the equation which must be seen in sharpest outline is the front sight. The rear is so close that the eye can swap back and forth between the two and thus keep both of them in sharpest perspective. The portion of the triangle that is sort of neglected is the target. It is seen as a sort of secondary consideration, and if a bit hazy, is not counted as too serious.

Among the top-drawer gunners there is a division as to whether to aim at the six o'clock point on the bullseye or at the very middle of it. Most favor six o'clock. It is somewhat easier to hold the black iron post against the contrasting whiteness of the target than it is to point it into the black middle of the bull. Even so, this practice of concentrating all the attention of the aiming eye on the front sight tends to dim the target regardless of where the shooter may place the sights.

An old competition pistolman myself, I never placed all this accent on the front sight. I looked at the bullseye and moved the sights into this alignment between my aiming eye and the mark. The sights seemed to be clear enough even though my attention was, for the most part, taken up with the very middle of the bull. According to the present day pistol pointer this is not cricket. They must have something seeing as these current champs shoot better scores than any of us old timers.

The mourning dove season has just pinched out as these lines are written. I've been shooting the elusive flyers all season with an over/under bored improved cylinder in both tubes. The amount of choke amounts to .003-inch. With ordinary field loads an improved cylinder boring will deliver 40% patterns in the 30-inch at 40 yards. The O/U of mine regularly shoots 60% patterns at the distance. It kills doves at 35 and 40 yards with all

the lethality of a duck gun.

The reason for this is not in the gun but in the cartridges I have been shooting. These have been Federal Champion Target loads, filled with 2¾ drams equiv. and 1⅞ ozs. No. 7½ shot. And Remington All American Target loads with Power Piston. The load is 3 drams equiv. and 1⅞ ozs. No. 7½. Both these cartridges are stuffed with the new shot packet. This gizmo, which acts as a container for the entire shot charge, goes down the bore with the pellets and carries them some feet beyond the muzzle before it falls away.

What these shot cups do is to insulate the pellets from the action of the choke. As a matter of fact, the plastic sides are so tough and unyielding that the choke has mighty little effect anymore. I shot ten patterns with the Remington and Federal shells, five with each, in another over/under I have that is bored modified in both tubes, and percentages ran 62 and 64 percent. Scarcely better than the improved cylinder performance out of my dove gun.

The ammo people admit that the shot cup is going to have some effect on patterns but they contend that the spread of the shot is just as great. The difference is that the concentration of the pellets toward the center of the pattern is heavier. I wonder. My experiences on doves this season with a 40% gun shooting modified patterns inclines me to believe that the pattern is not only more dense but is smaller too!

Shooting skeet with these new loadings, a place where the average shot is only 23 yards, I do not find that I am missing any targets because of the tightness of the patterns. Quite the contrary, I hit a few more targets out of 100 with the new Federal and Remington shells. Maybe I am just holding a little closer, but at any rate it is hard to reconcile the good performance at close range with the close patterning propensities farther out.





## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 16)

### Hensoldt Claimount Scope

I have a German Hensoldt Wetzlon scope with a 1.1 inch tube and projections for a rail mount underneath and a Savage Model 99F which I want to mount it on. How can I go about doing this, if possible, on a rail mount?

Harry Balin  
Brooklyn, New York

Apparently your scope is fitted with one of the numerous European detachable "claw" rings. These were individually hand-fitted to their bases, which were in turn hand-matched to the rifles. I can understand your desire to keep the original set-up, but the fitting is a tough problem and in most cases is not very practical. I doubt if any currently made bases for the Savage could be altered to accept your scope and mount. Buehler 26.5-27 mm split rings would fit your rifle and, if you take a micrometer measurement of your scope tube diameter at both ring positions, your scope may be able to be fitted, without the present claws.—W.S.

### Llama .38 Super

I have a quantity of Austrian 9 mm Steyr ammo which works well in my Astra 9 mm/.38 400. Would this ammo also function well in a Colt-Llama automatic marked for the .38 Super Auto cartridge? Also, what is your opinion of the Llama .45's and .38's?

G. B. Eichhorn  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Llama pistols chambered for the .38 Colt Super automatic cartridge and marked "9mm/38," will function correctly and safely with the 9 mm Steyr cartridge. It is virtually identical to the Bergmann-Bayard cartridge for which the gun was originally intended. Guns marked 9mm/38 will usually also work correctly with the .38 Colt Super. The Llama automatic pistols sold by Stoeger Arms have an excellent reputation for durability and reliability. They are not as nicely finished as quality domestic products, however, this cannot be expected in view of the price. I have several Llamas, and have no complaint about their performance.—G.N.

### Walther Model 8

I have recently been given a .25 caliber Walther automatic and would appreciate any information that you may be able to give me. The right side of the slide reads "Waffenfabrik Walther Zella-Mehlis (Thur.)" and the other side is marked "Walther's patent model 8." The grips have yellow metal discs on either side, one marked for the caliber, 6.35, the other a C and W monogram. The serial number is high, #396762.

Bruce Berkey  
Baltimore, Maryland

The gun you have is a Walther Model 8, probably one of the best Walther designs, which was introduced about 1920 and lived as long as the Weimar Republic. After Hitler's rise to power, it went out of production. In very good condition, a Model 8 is worth \$60-75 today; in fine condition, perhaps \$40-50 more.—S.B.

### Gew. 98 by Kornbusch & Co.

I have what appears to be a German model 1898 Mauser rifle in 7.92x57 mm. It is the regular World War I style except for the markings on the receiver ring: "WAFFENWERKE OBERSPREE KORNBUSCH & CO. 1917" in four lines. I have never heard of this firm and would like to know if this maker's guns are any rarer than the rest.

Harvey T. Miller  
Cleveland, Ohio

Waffenwerke Oberspree Kornbusch & Company was a subsidiary of the Deutsch Waffen und Munitionsfabriken ("DWM"). Together they made some 930,000 Mauser rifles between August 1, 1914 and the Armistice of November, 1918. Kornbusch Mausers are not commonly encountered, but seem to have no special appeal to collectors. I would imagine you could get about \$10 above the price of a comparable DWM marked Mauser.—S.B.

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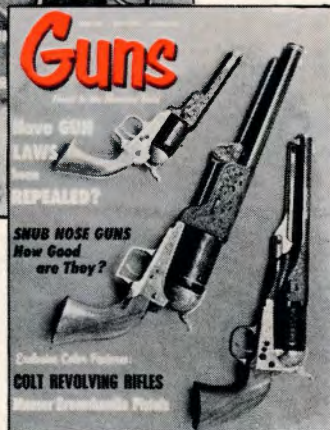
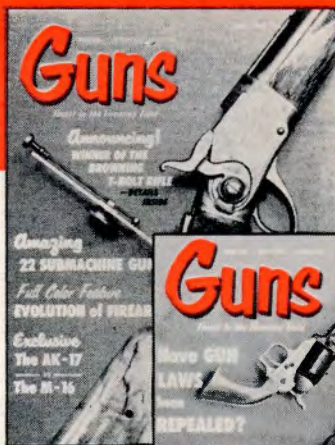
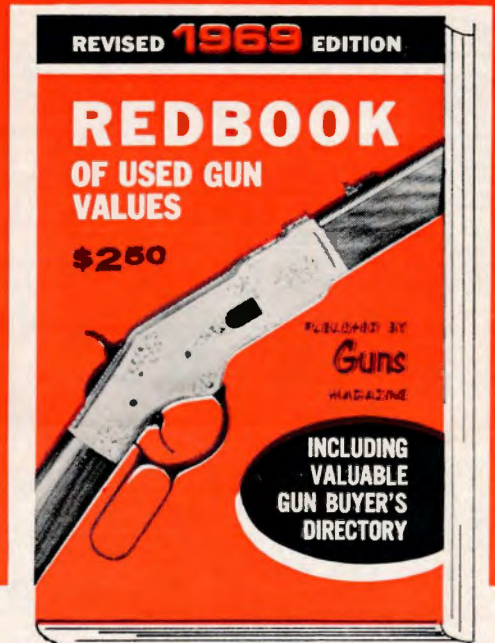
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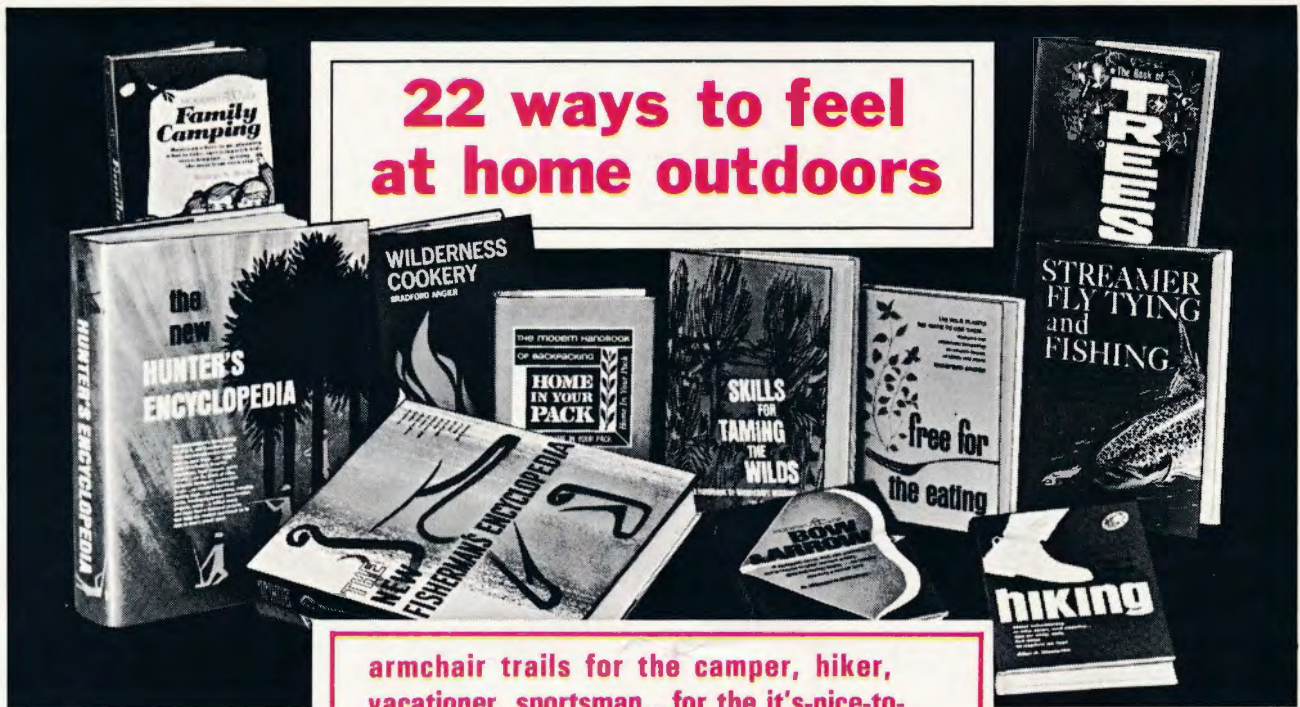
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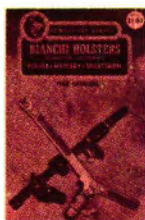
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